



Mistfall

by Andrew Smith

THE DOCTOR: PETER DAVISON

Time and space traveller.

NYSSA: SARAH SUTTON

Time traveller's companion.

TEGAN: JANET FIELDING

Time traveller's companion.

TURLOUGH: MARK STRICKSON

Time traveller's companion.

DECIDER LANA MERRION:

(F, 40s) Leader of the mission from New Alzarius. Her role is to make difficult decisions for the greater good.

PIK SOLUS:

(M, 40s) In charge of mission security... but has secrets of his own.

FEM / CITIZEN ARANA:

(F, e20s) Female Marshchild, seized on a previous expedition; now half-evolved to human form, she's an aide to Decider Merrion. / (F, e20s) Diving team leader; Solus's aide.

DRELL:

(M, 20s-30s) Haragi native from New Alzarius. Orphaned by a natural disaster, he's joined forces with Fara...

YAN FARA / MARSH LEADER:

(M, 20s-30s) An 'Outler' who seeks to protect Alzarius's ecology. Confident, well intentioned, but naive.

ALSO: CITIZEN GUARD; MALE CITIZEN; MARSHMEN (non-speaking).

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PART ONE

OPENING TITLES

1. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM

(FX: TARDIS IN FLIGHT. DOCTOR COMPLETES A SEQUENCE OF CONSOLE CONTROLS.)

DOCTOR:

We'll be arriving on Maxis Realtor shortly, Nyssa. One month after leaving Valderon, as requested. How are you feeling?

NYSSA:

Nervous. Excited... Mainly nervous.

DOCTOR:

You'll soon be with your daughter.

NYSSA:

Neeka's not seen me for twenty-five years. How will she react?

DOCTOR:

She'll be delighted to see her mother again. Of course she will.

NYSSA:

I hope so.

(FX: SUDDEN SURGE OF POWER FROM THE CONSOLE. INSTRUMENTS COME TO LIFE, CHATTERING WITH COMPUTATIONS. THE ROOM TILTS AND STRAINS FROM A SUDDEN COURSE CHANGE.)

DOCTOR AND NYSSA:

(CRY OUT AS THEY'RE THROWN ACROSS THE ROOM.)

(FX: ROOM LEVELS OUT; POWER SURGE PLATEAUS. INSTRUMENTS CONTINUE TO WORK COMPUTATIONS.)

NYSSA:

What was that?!

DOCTOR:

Course change. Sudden and violent.

NYSSA:

Caused by what?

(FX: DOCTOR AND NYSSA CROSS TO THE CONSOLE.)

DOCTOR:

The console instruments are making course calculations. The TARDIS is doing this!

NYSSA:

How is that – [possible]?

(FX: A NEW, DISRUPTIVE FORCE ACTS ON THE TARDIS – THE SHIMMERING, DISTORTING EFFECT OF CVE PASSAGE AS IN 'FULL CIRCLE' PART ONE. CONTINUING BEHIND:)

NYSSA: (DISTORTED BY FORCE)

(CONTINUED) Doctor, what is this... ?

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

I think I know... But it can't be.

NYSSA: (DISTORTED)

I can't gather my thoughts, I can't focus.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

It will pass, Nyssa.

(FX: DISRUPTION CONTINUES FOR A SHORT PERIOD, THEN EASES, FADING AWAY...)

DOCTOR:

(RELIEVED) Told you.

(FX: THEN: BANG! ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS, FOLLOWED BY DRAWL OF POWER SOURCES DRAINING RAPIDLY.)

NYSSA:

We're losing power!

(FX: DOCTOR RUNS TO THE CONSOLE, OPERATES CONTROLS.)

DOCTOR:

Emergency landing! Hang on!!

(FX: TARDIS ENGINES GROAN AND STUTTER – LABOURED VERSION OF THE NORMAL LANDING SEQUENCE. LANDING IS ACCOMPLISHED ON LOWER POWER RESERVES THAN NORMAL, SO IS COMPLETED WITH A THUMP OF IMPACT.)

DOCTOR AND NYSSA:

(CRY OUT AT JARRING IMPACT OF THE LANDING.)

(FX: LANDING SEQUENCE COMPLETES ABRUPTLY.)

DOCTOR:

(SHAKEN) Are you alright?

NYSSA:

(ALSO SHAKEN) I'm in one piece.

(FX: TEGAN AND TURLOUGH RUN IN.)

TEGAN:

(ENTERING) What was that?!

TURLOUGH:

(ENTERING) Did we hit something?

NYSSA:

We've landed.

TURLOUGH:

On Maxis Realtor?

DOCTOR:

Oh, I'd say that's highly unlikely.

TEGAN:

Then where?

NYSSA:

Shall I check the co-ordinates?

DOCTOR:

That wouldn't do much good. Not here.

NYSSA:

Why? Where's 'here'?

TEGAN:

Someone try the scanner, at least!

TURLOUGH:

Good idea.

(FX: SCANNER OPENS.)

TURLOUGH:

There. That's what's outside.

TEGAN:

A mountain range. Doesn't tell us much.

DOCTOR:

Those are the Meridian Mountains. They separate the Arcadian desert from the lowlands of Outer Gallifrey.

NYSSA:

We're on your home planet?

DOCTOR:

No. We're not.

(FX: DOCTOR OPENS DOORS.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) Come outside.

(FX: DOCTOR EXITS, THE OTHERS FOLLOW.)

2. FOREST CLEARING

(FX: GRASS AND UNDERGROWTH AROUND US. A WATERFALL NEARBY, FEEDING A STREAM THAT FLOWS CLOSE TO US. TARDIS DOOR OPENS; THE FOUR OCCUPANTS STEP OUT.)

TEGAN:

A forest?

TURLOUGH:

This isn't the same place as on the scanner.

NYSSA:

Is this another part of Gallifrey?

DOCTOR:

We're not on Gallifrey.

NYSSA:

Then where are we?

DOCTOR:

We're on Alzarius.

NYSSA:

Alzarius? But that was Adric's home world, wasn't it? And that was in ... (HESITATES)

TEGAN:

... in another universe.

DOCTOR:

E-Space.

TURLOUGH:

You're saying we've passed into another universe?

DOCTOR:

This makes no sense. Passing through a CVE is unlikely enough, but to land on Alzarius again...

TURLOUGH:

A CV-what?

DOCTOR:

A Charged Vacuum Emboitement.

TURLOUGH:

That's a thing?

DOCTOR:

Not so much a thing as an event. Rare to the point of being improbable.

NYSSA:

CVEs were manufactured by the Logopolitans, to protect against universal entropy.

DOCTOR:

Exactly. The question is, why has the TARDIS brought us here?

TEGAN:

The question is, how do we get back?!

DOCTOR:

I wonder... (TURNS AND EXITS INTO TARDIS. CONTINUES INTO:)

3. TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: DOCTOR, NYSSA, TEGAN AND TURLOUGH RETURN INSIDE)

DOCTOR:

(WALKING IN) I still have Adric's Alzarian image translator somewhere. I'll have to dig it out in due course. (FX: OPERATES CONTROLS) We'll need it to get a true image on the scanner.

(FX: ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE ACCOMPANIES A READ-OUT FROM THE TARDIS CONSOLE.)

DOCTOR:

(SURPRISE) Well, now.

TEGAN:

What's that mean?

NYSSA:

A programme has been entered into the TARDIS's navigational sub-routines.

DOCTOR:

Yes. It activated itself when it recognised that we were close to a CVE.

TURLOUGH:

Someone programmed the TARDIS to do this?

TEGAN:

Who?

DOCTOR:

Adric.

TEGAN:

Adric??

DOCTOR:

His log-in signature is on the programming.

TEGAN:

I don't get it.

NYSSA:

Don't you remember? Adric calculated a way back to E-Space, when... when he wanted to go back home.

TEGAN:

Just before we met the Cybermen! Just before he... (STOPS HERSELF)

TURLOUGH:

Before he died.

DOCTOR:

Yes, thank you, Turlough. I didn't know he'd used the TARDIS instruments.

NYSSA:

He must have used a Block Transfer Computation.

DOCTOR:

He would have known how – the Master showed him, on Castrovalva. That computation would have physically permeated the TARDIS innards and stuck, sitting in the navigation codes, waiting until we passed close to a CVE.

TEGAN:

But Adric wanted to return to Terradon, not Alzarius.

DOCTOR:

He needed a point of reference, for navigation. Alzarius would have been the only point in E-Space that he could mathematically locate.

TURLOUGH:

Can't we use the same program to go back?

DOCTOR:

It was a one-way calculation.

TEGAN:

And is the TARDIS up to it anyway? That was one bumpy landing.

DOCTOR:

Yes. That was odd. We suffered a temporary drop in power. There's still a slight trickle of power loss...

NYSSA:

Is it serious?

DOCTOR:

I should check if the instruments have been damaged...

(FX: DOCTOR CROUCHES DOWN AND OPENS A HATCH UNDER THE CONSOLE. ADJUSTS COMPONENTS INSIDE AS HE EXAMINES THEM.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) The comparator looks fine, fully charged, undamaged... Gravitic anomaliser, also good... Now let's have a look at you.

(FX: HE DISCONNECTS A COMPONENT AND STANDS UP TO EXAMINE IT. IT EMITS A SUBTLE TONE AS HE TURNS IT IN HIS HAND.)

TURLOUGH:

Is that a gem? It looks like a large ruby.

TEGAN:

Ever see a ruby with a glowing light inside it?

TURLOUGH:

It looks valuable.

DOCTOR:

In practical terms, it's priceless. This is the interface stabiliser. It protects us from severe external forces. Shock, pressure, extreme heat or cold, radiation... It's crystalline, so holding it up to the light would show any flaws. But... no.

NYSSA:

Doctor, are we staying here?

(FX: DOCTOR PLACES INTERFACE STABILISER DOWN ON THE CONSOLE.)

DOCTOR:

Until I've performed a full diagnostic, at least. Why?

NYSSA:

Adric often talked about how the ecology of Alzarius changed every fifty years or so.

DOCTOR:

Mistfall. He told you about that?

NYSSA:

Enough that I think we need to be sure it isn't going to happen any time soon.

4. MARSHLANDS

(FX: A LARGE, POWERFUL TRANSPORTER VEHICLE COMES TOWARDS US OVER MUDDY TERRAIN AND HALTS. ENGINE POWERS DOWN. DOORS OPEN AND A LARGE GROUP DISEMBARKS. PIK SOLUS, CLOSEST TO US, OPENS THE DRIVER DOOR AND STEPS DOWN.)

SOLUS:

(STEPPING DOWN) Alright, you lot, no time to stand around admiring the view. We've a job to do. Get the equipment unloaded.

ARANA:

(NEARBY, LIFTING EQUIPMENT) Yes, Mr Solus.

(FX: ACTIVITY. ITEMS OF KIT – TROLLEYS, AIR CYLINDERS, EQUIPMENT CASES – ARE UNLOADED FROM THE VEHICLE.)

SOLUS:

And Arana?

ARANA:

Sir?

SOLUS:

I want you and your diving team suited up and ready to go in thirty minutes.

ARANA:

We'll be ready.

SOLUS:

(ALoud TO THE GROUP) Thirty minutes, people! Then I want our divers in the water. I want them in the marsh!

5. FOREST CLEARING

(FX: DOCTOR, NYSSA, TEGAN AND TURLOUGH EMERGE FROM TARDIS.)

DOCTOR:

(EMERGING) To find out how close we are to Mistfall, we need to find out where Alzarius is in its solar cycle. We'll split into two pairs and take star readings using these.

TEGAN:

What are they?

NYSSA:

Electronic astrolabes. They work in day or night, you just need an unobstructed view of the sky.

TURLOUGH:

I know how to use one of those.

(FX: DOCTOR HANDS AN ASTROLABE TO TURLOUGH.)

DOCTOR:

Excellent, here you are. You and Nyssa make for that range of hills over there, Tegan and I will go in the opposite direction. Meet back at the TARDIS in two hours.

NYSSA:

Two hours. See you then.

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH WALK OFF INTO THE FOREST.)

TEGAN:

Come on, then, Doctor. Best foot forward.

(FX: DOCTOR AND TEGAN WALK OFF ALONG A GRASS PATH.)

6. MARSHLANDS

(FX: FOUR DIVERS ARE GETTING INTO THEIR DIVING SUITS. SUITS FASTENED, TANKS STRAPPED TO THEIR BACKS.)

SOLUS:

You know what you've got to do, so let's get it done. Helmets on, check your breathing.

(FX: DIVERS LATCH ON THEIR HELMETS AND SECURE THEM. THEY OPEN THEIR AIR TUBES; RUSH OF OXYGEN THROUGH BREATHING APPARATUS.)

ARANA: (DIVING HELMET FILTER)

Breathing's fine, Mr Solus.

SOLUS:

Good. Alright, all of you, into the water.

(FX: DIVERS WALK A SHORT DISTANCE AND ENTER THE WATER, WADING IN.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) (VOICE RAISED TO ENSURE THEY HEAR HIM) You've been in these marsh waters before, but it's dark under there. Keep close to one another.

(FX: DIVERS CONTINUE FURTHER INTO THE WATER, SUBMERGING THEMSELVES.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) Weapons team, stand ready. Just in case.

(FX: TWO CITIZENS RACK THEIR ENERGY WEAPONS, WHICH POWER UP, READY TO FIRE.)

7. FOREST TRACK

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH WALKING ALONG A DIRT TRACK.)

TURLOUGH:

Marshmen?

NYSSA:

Violent creatures, Adric said. They hibernate in the water of the marshes, and emerge during Mistfall. There are other fauna as well. Giant spiders. Poisonous apparently.

TURLOUGH:

And it looks so picturesque for now. So much colour. When it wakes up, not so – [pretty.]

(FX: ENERGY WEAPON FIRES IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE. TURLOUGH IS HIT AND GOES DOWN HEAVILY.)

TURLOUGH:

(CRIES OUT AND FALLS)

NYSSA:

Turlough!

TURLOUGH:

(IN PAIN) My leg! (WINCES) Gah, it feels... I can't move it!

NYSSA:

Can you stand? If I support you?

TURLOUGH:

(TRIES TO STAND, FALLS BACK) No! My leg's totally numb.

(FX: PUSHING ASIDE FOLIAGE, A CITIZEN GUARD WALKS TOWARDS US FROM THE NEAR DISTANCE, HEFTING A WEAPON. HE RACKS IT, POWERING UP THE NEXT ROUND READY TO FIRE.)

CITIZEN GUARD:

(APPROACHING) Both of you, stay completely still. You, try to run and you'll get what he got.

NYSSA:

Why did you shoot at us? Who are you?

CITIZEN GUARD:

That's right. Play the innocent. But you're not going to be causing us any more trouble. Put your hands – [up] [REACTS IN PAIN, FALLS]

(FX: THE CITIZEN GUARD HITS THE GROUND HEAVILY.)

TURLOUGH:

What happened to him?

(FX: NYSSA CROSSES TO THE BODY, CROUCHES TO EXAMINE HIM.)

NYSSA:

I don't know. He put his hand to his neck... There's a red mark.

DRELL:

(CLOSE BY) He is sleeping.

NYSSA AND TURLOUGH:

(REACT, SURPRISED)

DRELL:

The sap of the night vine does this.

(FX: A SECOND FIGURE STEPS OUT FROM THE UNDERGROWTH.)

FARA:

(APPROACHING) What my friend is trying to say is that he hit him with a sleeping dart, a strong soporific. He'll be unconscious for hours.

TURLOUGH:

Is that... a catapult?

DRELL:

I do not know this word. (BEAT) You are staring.

NYSSA:

Sorry... It's just...

FARA:

Don't be alarmed by Drell's appearance. He is an Haragi. [PRON. HAR-AGGY] The tattoos that cover his body are an adornment of his people. They tell the story of his bloodline.

NYSSA:

Who are you?

FARA:

My name is Yan Fara, and I'm a New Alzarian.

NYSSA:

A 'new' Alzarian?

FARA:

Let's continue this conversation somewhere safer, shall we, um... ?

TURLOUGH:

Turlough.

NYSSA:

And I'm Nyssa.

TURLOUGH

I still can't feel my leg...

FARA:

The feeling will return, Turlough. You were hit with a stun round. Here, let me help you.

(FX: FARA LIFTS TURLOUGH AND SUPPORTS HIM)

NYSSA:

(TAKING TURLOUGH'S OTHER ARM) I'll help.

TURLOUGH:

(WINCING WITH PAIN) Why did he shoot at us?

FARA:

He thought you were with us.

TURLOUGH:

Eh?

FARA:

Questions later. Let's get out of here.

DRELL:

I will make sure this guard is unharmed.

FARA:

Okay, catch us up.

(FX: FARA, NYSSA AND TURLOUGH HEAD OFF INTO THE TREES. DRELL KNEELS BY THE CITIZEN GUARD, TURNS HIM OVER.)

CITIZEN GUARD:

(MOANS AS HE IS TURNED, NOT WAKING)

DRELL:

You sleep, yes. And now at my hand you will sleep forever.

(FX: DRAWS A BLADE FROM ITS SCABBARD, PLUNGES IT INTO GUARD.)

CITIZEN GUARD:

(A SHORT CRY, THEN HE DIES)

DRELL:

Die. As your kind will all soon die.

8. RIVERSIDE

(FX: DOCTOR AND TEGAN ARE WALKING ALONG A GRASS PATH NEXT TO A RIVER.)

DOCTOR:

Not much further. The forest should open up shortly... Oh.

(FX: THEY STOP.)

TEGAN:

It's not all a garden paradise, then.

DOCTOR:

That's odd. The other side of the river, it's like nothing is growing.

TEGAN:

Dead trees as far as the eye can see. Right up to the hills.

DOCTOR:

I didn't see this before. But then again, we didn't explore far.

TEGAN:

Here's something that might interest you even more. Look. Tyre tracks.

(FX: DOCTOR CROUCHES TO EXAMINE THE TRACKS.)

DOCTOR:

Made recently too.

TEGAN:

So we're not alone here?

DOCTOR:

It would seem not.

(FX: HE STANDS AND WALKS AWAY. TEGAN FOLLOWS.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) (MOVING AWAY) Let's see where they lead.

9. MARSHLANDS

(FX: ARANA BREAKS THE SURFACE AND WADES OUT OF THE WATER.)

SOLUS:

How's it going down there?

(FX: ARANA UNFASTENS AND REMOVES HER HELMET. THERE IS A HISS OF OXYGEN AS THE SEAL IS BROKEN.)

ARANA:

All done. The others are just about ready to come up.

SOLUS:

Good! Right you lot, I want -

DOCTOR:

(FROM DISTANCE) You there! You!

SOLUS:

Who the devil... ?

(FX: THE DOCTOR APPROACHES AT A PACE ACROSS DIRT AND MUD, TEGAN IN TOW.)

TEGAN:

(MIDDLE DISTANCE, APPROACHING) Doctor, do you think we should go rushing in like this?

DOCTOR:

(APPROACHING) Just what do you think you're doing?

SOLUS:

Weapons ready!

(FX: 2 x CITIZEN GUARDS BRING STUN WEAPONS UP TO THE AIM.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) That's close enough!

(FX: DOCTOR AND TEGAN COME TO A HALT, NOW CLOSE.)

DOCTOR:

Please, I'm the Doctor, this is Tegan.

TEGAN:

(NERVOUS) Hi...

DOCTOR:

We mean you no harm, but you need to get your people out of the water...

TEGAN:

It's dangerous!

SOLUS:

Oh, really?

DOCTOR:

There are creatures in that marsh. Dormant, but if you disturb them...

SOLUS:

Creatures. You mean the Marshmen.

DOCTOR:

(SURPRISED) You know about the Marshmen?

SOLUS:

They're why we're here.

10. FOREST TRACK

(FX: FARA AND NYSSA HELPING TURLOUGH ALONG THE TRACK. SLOW PROGRESS.)

TURLOUGH:

(WINCING WITH THE EFFORT OF WALKING WHILE SUPPORTED)

DRELL:

Not far now.

FARA:

You said you came here by accident?

NYSSA:

A kind of crash landing.

FARA:

A very unfortunate accident to land on Alzarius.

(FX: DRELL COMES RUNNING FROM BEHIND THEM AND JOINS THEM.)

FARA:

(CONTINUED) Drell. Was he alright?

DRELL:

He will sleep for a long time.

11. MARSHLANDS

DOCTOR:

Why are you here? Tell me.

(FX: TWO DIVERS BREAK THE SURFACE OF THE WATER AND COME ASHORE.)

SOLUS:

We'll continue this conversation in a moment. (TO EVERYONE)
They're coming up! I want this to run as smooth as clockwork.
Get ready!

DOCTOR:

Whatever you're doing – don't.

SOLUS:

Keep those two at gunpoint. Stun them if they get in the way!

(FX: A PEAK IN ACTIVITY. SEVERAL CITIZENS RUNNING TO THEIR POSITIONS. THE REMAINING THREE DIVERS EMERGE FROM THE WATER.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) (TO EVERYONE) Okay, here they come!

(FX: THE EMERGING DIVERS, MOVING TOWARDS LAND, ARE SLOWED BY HEAVY OBJECTS THEY ARE CARRYING BETWEEN THEM.)

TEGAN:

Doctor, what are those things they're carrying?

DOCTOR:

This is bad. Very bad.

(FX: THE DIVERS CONTINUE ONTO DRY LAND AND TOWARDS THE TRANSPORTER.)

TEGAN:

But what are they? They're like... giant wet beanbags.

DOCTOR:

The material is a collagen membrane. Those pods contain living beings – dormant Marshmen.

TEGAN:

I think I can make out the shape of... something... inside there.
All curled up.

SOLUS:

Well done, everyone. Okay, quick as you like, get them into the back of the transporter, into the container.

(FX: DIVERS AND CITIZENS CARRY THE PODS UP A RAMP AND INTO THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE. THEY ARE PLACED IN A WATER TANK.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) Gently... Gently!

DOCTOR:

When they wake up, they're going to be very angry.

SOLUS:

They won't wake up until we want them to. (CALLS TO HIS TEAM)
Okay, lock it up! We need to get them back to base as quickly as we can.

(FX: A SHUTTER SLIDES DOWN AND LOCKS, THE RAMP RETRACTS.)

TEGAN:

What are you going to do with them?

SOLUS:

More questions. You know, I could have you two arrested. This planet is out of bounds by Decider Decree seven-eight-six. Tell me what you're doing here.

DOCTOR:

Did you just say 'Decider'... ?

12. FARA'S CAMP

(FX: NYSSA, TURLOUGH, FARA AND DRELL COME OUT OF A PATCH OF FOLIAGE INTO A CLEARING. A DIRT PATH UNDERFOOT.)

TURLOUGH:

(CONTINUES TO WINCE AS HE WALKS)

FARA:

(APPROACHING) It's over here. We use this greenery as camouflage...

(FX: HE PULLS ON A SWATHE OF VEGETATION THAT FALLS AWAY FROM THE SIDE OF HIS SPACECRAFT.)

NYSSA:

A spacecraft?

FARA:

Just a planet hopper. A birthday present from my parents. Not much to it, but being small makes it easier to hide.

(FX: HE ACTIVATES A CONTROL, AND A HATCHWAY SLIDES OPEN.)

FARA:

(CONTINUED) In you go.

TURLOUGH:

Thank you.

(FX: THEY ENTER THE SHIP.)

13. FARA'S SHIP. (CONTINUOUS)

(FX: A COMPACT INTERIOR ACOUSTIC. ONE OR TWO INSTRUMENTS TICKING OVER. NYSSA, WITH FARA AND DRELL HELPING TURLOUGH, ENTER FROM THE FOREST.)

FARA:

(ENTERING) Turlough, you can rest on the bench.

TURLOUGH:

(EFFORT OF LYING DOWN) Thanks... I think I'm starting to feel my toes, at least.

FARA:

You'll be fully recovered soon.

NYSSA:

(ENTERING) You're right, Fara, there's not much room.

FARA:

Drell doesn't like it, do you, Drell? He likes flying in it even less.

DRELL:

Machines are not good. Not necessary.

FARA:

The Haragi distrust technology. And I sympathise, I choose nature over technology whenever I can, but when you have to get from one planet to another there's no choice. And we're here to help nature, after all. The nature of Alzarius.

14. MARSHLANDS

(FX: THE CITIZENS ARE CLIMBING ABOARD THE TRANSPORTER.)

SOLUS:

If you came here by accident, as you say, how do you know so much about Alzarius?

TEGAN:

It's a long story – Solus, did I catch that right?

DOCTOR:

Solus – you mentioned a Decider decree. Are you from the Starliner?

SOLUS:

The Starliner?

TEGAN:

(TO DOCTOR) Yeah, what's the Starliner?

DOCTOR:

(TO SOLUS) The Terradon Starliner. Your people were led by three Deciders.

SOLUS:

We still are. But the Starliner was a long time ago.

DOCTOR:

How long?

SOLUS:

I don't know what to make of you two. For trespassers you're not well informed.

TEGAN:

The Doctor asked you a question. How long?

SOLUS:

Get on board, up front with me. We can have the history lesson on the way.

15. FARA'S SHIP

FARA:

My people are descended from a community that lived in a Starliner that crashed on Alzarius thousands of years ago.

NYSSA:

I know something about that.

FARA:

You do? Then you know that the Starliner left Alzarius three hundred years ago?

TURLOUGH:

Don't look at me. I know nothing.

NYSSA:

Three hundred years? I... Yes. Of course.

FARA:

The Starliner travelled for a long time after leaving, looking for somewhere suitable for a new home. Then they found a world. The Haragi's world.

DRELL:

You came from the sky. The first outsiders my ancestors had seen.

FARA:

We made great friends of the Haragi. We established ourselves, we built and cultivated. We expanded and populated large areas over time. (BITTER) And of course we introduced technology on a grand scale, to a world that had known none of it.

DRELL:

Not our world any more.

FARA:

The Haragi were - are - a simple people, close to nature. We made it our world, we trampled over the natural beauty of that planet, and came to dominate it. Not through force, but through an absolute and arrogant assumption of our superiority through technology.

16. SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER

(FX: IN THE CABIN OF THE VEHICLE AS IT MOVES ALONG.)

TEGAN:

And this world became your new home?

SOLUS:

Those citizens, led by First Decider Login...

DOCTOR:

(A HAPPY MEMORY) Login! Such a good man...

SOLUS:

He saved us. Those first citizens, they worked hard. They built homes that over generations became vast settlements. They built industries that enriched our society. Within a hundred years we were trading with other worlds.

DOCTOR:

Does your world have a name?

SOLUS:

The Haragi had no name for it. So by Decider Decree it was named New Alzarius. (SEEING SOMETHING AHEAD) Oh for goodness' sake!

(FX: SOLUS BRAKES AND HALTS THE VEHICLE.)

TEGAN:

What is it?

SOLUS:

There was a temporary bridge over this ravine.

TEGAN:

Where's it gone?

SOLUS:

They must have cut the supporting cables.

TEGAN:

Who?

SOLUS:

Outlers. We'll have to find another way round.

(FX: SOLUS ENGAGES DRIVE, AND THE VEHICLE TURNS AND MOVES ON.)

DOCTOR:

Outlers. That's another term from the past.

17. FARA'S SHIP

FARA:

They call us Outlers – it's an old term, a pejorative for anyone who doesn't conform, for anyone who chooses to live free of the whim of the Deciders.

TURLOUGH:

Deciders?

FARA:

Our leaders. There are three of them, a hangover from the time of the Starliner. Appointed at the discretion of the First Decider. We don't do democracy.

NYSSA:

How many of you 'Outlers' are there?

FARA:

Here on Alzarius it's just me and Drell, but we're making life difficult for the expedition. Little things. We block the roads, steal their equipment, their food rations, that sort of thing.

TURLOUGH:

Why?

DRELL:

It frustrates them. Makes it difficult for them to move, to do their work.

TURLOUGH:

But why do it at all?

DRELL:

We want them to leave.

FARA:

We're not going to let them trample over the beauty of this world as they have done on new Alzarius.

18. SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER

(FX: THE VEHICLE MAKING GOOD SPEED.)

SOLUS:

There you have it. Dead ahead. Alzarius base.

TEGAN:

Is that a spaceship?

SOLUS:

The central structure is the ship that brought us here. With living modules connected to the hull by sealed walkways.

DOCTOR:

And your Decider is here?

SOLUS:

Decider Merrion. The base is her command post.

DOCTOR:

This expedition must be very important to your people if you have a Decider to lead it.

SOLUS:

It's our most vital endeavour. But enough, we're arriving. And we have to get these Marshmen back into water as quickly as we can.

19. ALZARIUS BASE: MERRION'S QUARTERS

(FX: MODESTLY SIZED LIVING SPACE. DECIDER MERRION IS WORKING AT DESK, FINGERS BUSY ON A COMPUTER KEYBOARD. A COMMUNICATOR TRILLS, AND MERRION PRESSES A SWITCH TO TAKE THE CALL.)

MERRION:

Yes?

ARANA: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

Decider Merrion? Ma'am, Mr Solus's compliments. He has returned.

MERRION:

Was he successful?

ARANA: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

He's taking the Marsh creatures to the Science Unit.

MERRION:

Get them into the observation tank. Tell Mr Solus I'll be there momentarily.

ARANA: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

Yes, Decider.

20. ALZARIUS BASE: TANK ROOM

(FX: A HIGH CEILINGED, METAL WALLED ROOM. OXYGENATED WATER BUBBLES WITHIN A LARGE GLASS FRONTED TANK. A CRANE ARM IS AT WORK, LOWERING THE PODS INTO THE WATER.)

SOLUS:

Steady, I want those pods undamaged... Alright, they're fully immersed. You can release them.

(FX: THE CRANE STOPS. THE LINE ATTACHING IT TO THE PODS IS ELECTRONICALLY DETACHED AND SPLASHES INTO THE WATER. THE CRANE THEN WITHDRAWS.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) Now seal the tank.

(FX: A HATCH SLIDES INTO PLACE.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) Done. Safe and sound. Arana, what's the water temperature?

(FX: ARANA PUNCHES A COUPLE OF BUTTONS ON A WALL MONITOR.)

ARANA:

Twenty four degrees.

SOLUS:

Perfect.

DOCTOR:

What you're doing here is very dangerous.

TEGAN:

Not to mention immoral.

SOLUS:

If I need your opinions I'll ask for them.

(FX: BEHIND THE ABOVE, THE MAIN DOOR SLIDES OPEN AND DECIDER MERRION ENTERS.)

MERRION:

(ENTERING) That's enough, Mr Solus.

SOLUS:

My apologies, Decider.

DOCTOR:

Decider Merrion?

MERRION:

First Decider Lana Merrion. Who are you?

TEGAN:

I'm Tegan. This is the Doctor. You're in charge of this lot, are you?

MERRION:

(RECOGNISING THE NAME) The Doctor?

SOLUS:

They say they came here by accident.

MERRION:

In a blue box perhaps?

TEGAN:

You know about the TARDIS?

DOCTOR:

Tegan...

MERRION:

Solus, these are friends of New Alzarius and are to be afforded every hospitality.

SOLUS:

But Decider, they're trespassers.

MERRION:

Every hospitality.

SOLUS:

Yes ma'am.

DOCTOR:

Decider, I'm going to have to insist that you release these Marshmen.

MERRION:

That's not going to happen. We've come a long way and taken a lot of risks to get them.

TEGAN:

You've no right to treat them this way!

DOCTOR:

Speaking of risks, if they wake up, are you sure this glass is strong enough to contain them?

(FX: THE DOCTOR GIVES THE GLASS TWO DEMONSTRATIVE STRIKES WITH THE SIDE OF HIS FIST.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) ... Because you had better be very sure.

MERRION:

They won't wake up.

TEGAN:

How do you know?

MERRION:

Marshman hibernation is ended by a drop in temperature. Solus, what's the water temperature at the moment?

SOLUS:

Twenty four degrees.

MERRION:

More than adequate. We'll keep them nice and warm until we're ready for them to revive.

TEGAN:

And then what? Vivisection?

MERRION:

(EMPHATICALLY) No.

DOCTOR:

Why take them at all?

MERRION:

Our mission is entirely ethical. Come next door and let me show you our Science Unit, where this work is co-ordinated.

SOLUS:

Decider, if you'll excuse me, I have to write up my patrol report.

MERRION:

Certainly.

SOLUS:

Citizen Arana, stay with these 'friends of Alzarius', make sure they get anything they need.

ARANA:

Yes, Mr Solus.

(FX: SOLUS LEAVES.)

MERRION:

Doctor? Through here.

(FX: MERRION EXITS, THE DOCTOR WALKS TO THE DOOR.)

DOCTOR:

Tegan?

TEGAN:

I'll stay here and keep an eye on the Marshmen.

DOCTOR:

They're not going anywhere.

TEGAN:

I don't trust this bunch.

DOCTOR:

(RELENTING) I'll be just next door.

(FX: THE DOCTOR EXITS, THE DOOR SLIDES CLOSED. TEGAN WALKS UP TO THE GLASS.)

ARANA:

What are you doing?

TEGAN:

Taking a closer look at the tank.

(FX: SHE GIVES THE GLASS A TAP.)

ARANA:

Please. Don't do that.

TEGAN:

Nervous?

21. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT

(FX: A GENEROUS SIZED ROOM, EQUIPPED WITH SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS. THE TICK AND BEEP OF THOSE INSTRUMENTS AT WORK, OPERATED BY CITIZEN SCIENTISTS. MERRION LEADS THE DOCTOR TO A BANK OF INSTRUMENTS.)

MERRION:

Our Science Unit. As you see, it's well equipped.

DOCTOR:

I had a brief look when Solus brought us through to the tank room. I couldn't help noticing this cage.

(FX: HE RATTLES THE BARS OF THE CAGE.)

MERRION:

We do not intend to cause the Marshmen harm in any way.

DOCTOR:

Are you going to revive them?

MERRION:

Eventually, under very controlled conditions.

DOCTOR:

Tell me, Decider. What is the purpose of your expedition?

22. ALZARIUS BASE: TANK ROOM

(FX: THE WATER BUBBLING IN THE TANK AS BEFORE. TEGAN WALKS SLOWLY UP TO THE GLASS.)

TEGAN:

Strange to think there are living things in there... Hey. That's odd.

ARANA:

What?

TEGAN:

Should there be condensation on the tank?

ARANA:

No...

TEGAN:

And the glass... it feels cold against my palm.

(FX: THE CITIZEN CROSSES TO THE WALL CONTROL, TAPS THE CONTROL BUTTON.)

ARANA:

The water temperature is still shown as twenty four degrees.

TEGAN:

It's a lot colder than that.

(FX: A LARGE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE WATER, CAUSING A SIZEABLE RIPPLE.)

MARSH LEADER:

(MUFFLED THROUGH THE GLASS AND FROM WITHIN THE POD, AN ANGRY WAKENING GROWL)

TEGAN:

They're moving!

ARANA:

(NERVOUS) Do you think they'll come out of their pods?

(FX: SUDDEN THRASHING IN THE WATER AS THE MARSHMEN — ONE A MARSH LEADER — TWIST AND TURN WITHIN THEIR PODS. THE MEMBRANES ARE TORN OPEN.)

TEGAN:

That answers that question. Cripes, they're big, aren't they?

ARANA:

Your friend said he wasn't sure the glass is strong enough.

TEGAN:

Let's not take a chance. We need to get out of here.

(FX: TEGAN RUNS TO THE DOOR, HITS THE DOOR CONTROL. THE DOOR REMAINS SHUT. SHE HITS IT AGAIN, AND AGAIN.)

TEGAN:

(CONTINUED) The door won't open! It's locked!

(FX: SHE HAMMERS AT THE DOOR.)

TEGAN:

(CONTINUED) Can anyone hear me?!

MARSH LEADER AND MARSHMAN:

(MUFFLED ROAR, STILL IN THE WATER.)

23. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: HAMMERING FROM THE TANK ROOM DOOR.)

DOCTOR:

Tegan?

(FX: THE DOCTOR RUNS TO THE TANK ROOM DOOR, TOGETHER WITH MERRION AND TWO CITIZENS. THE DOCTOR HITS THE DOOR CONTROL. THE DOOR REMAINS CLOSED.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) The door's jammed! Tegan!

24. ALZARIUS BASE: TANK ROOM

DOCTOR:

(THROUGH THE DOOR) Tegan! What's happening?

(FX: THE GLASS OF THE TANK SHATTERS, A WALL OF WATER FLOODS INTO THE ROOM.)

TEGAN AND ARANA:

(CRY OUT AS THEY ARE HIT BY THE WATER.)

MARSH LEADER AND MARSHMAN:

(ANGRY ROARS, APPROACHING FROM OUT OF THE TANK)

ARANA:

Keep away or I'll shoot! -

TEGAN:

(TO MARSHMEN) She means it!

(FX: ARANA FIRES AN ENERGY WEAPON THAT HITS THE MARSHMAN.)

MARSHMAN:

(CRIES OUT AND FALLS, DEAD)

(FX: THE MARSHMAN'S BODY HITS THE WET FLOOR.)

ARANA:

I warned him. You others, get back!

TEGAN:

They don't understand. Arana, keep away from them!

MARSH LEADER:

(STRIKES OUT ANGRILY)

ARANA:

(SCREAMS, FATALLY WOUNDED, AND FALLS TO THE FLOOR.)

TEGAN:

(SIMULTANEOUSLY) No!!!

(FX: ARANA'S BODY HITS THE WET FLOOR. THE MARSH LEADER MOVES FORWARD. TEGAN HAMMERS FRANTICALLY ON THE DOOR.)

TEGAN:

(CONTINUED) Someone, please, get me out of here! Get me out!!

MARSH LEADER:

(NOW VERY CLOSE TO US - ANGRY, BLOOD CURDLING ROARS)

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

OPENING TITLES

REPRISE:

(FX: ... THE MARSH LEADER MOVES FORWARD. TEGAN HAMMERS FRANTICALLY ON THE DOOR.)

TEGAN:

(CONTINUED) Someone, please, get me out of here! Get me out!!

MARSH LEADER:

(NOW VERY CLOSE TO US – ANGRY, BLOOD CURDLING ROARS)

CONTINUES INTO:

25. ALZARIUS BASE: TANK ROOM [CONTINUOUS]

MARSH LEADER:

(... THEN THE ROARS TAIL OFF. HE BEGINS BREATHING IN DEEPLY, EXHALING WITH LONG RASPY, CRACKLING BREATHS. ACCLIMATISING TO THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT.)

TEGAN:

(TERRIFIED) Well? – What are you waiting for? – Are you just going to stand there?

DOCTOR:

(THROUGH THE DOOR) Tegan, talk to me! What's happening?

TEGAN:

The Marshmen have broken out. They killed Arana! She shot one of them, I think she killed him.

CROSS TO:

26. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT. [CONTINUOUS]

MERRION:

Killed him? I ordered weapons on stun.

TEGAN:

(THROUGH THE DOOR) Get me out of here!

DOCTOR:

I'll get the door open. It may take a minute or two. What's the other Marshman doing?

TEGAN:

Not much at the moment. Standing in front of me, deep breathing.

DOCTOR:

He's acclimatising. He's come from an underwater environment into one that's oxygen-rich. Oxygen-rich... Tegan, look around. Are there any oxygen cylinders in there?

CROSS TO:

27. ALZARIUS BASE: TANK ROOM [CONTINUOUS]

TEGAN:

I don't know... (GOING OVER) Wait, there's a medical kit on the wall. — Yeah, there's an oxygen cylinder inside!

DOCTOR:

(THROUGH DOOR) You can use the oxygen to hold off the Marshman when he revives. Spray it towards him. It's too rich for him.

(FX: TEGAN UNSTRAPS OXYGEN CYLINDER AND HEFTS IT IN HER HAND.)

TEGAN:

Got it. Are you sure about this?

CROSS TO:

28. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR:

It worked once before. Keep calm, I'll get you out as quickly as I can.

(FX: SOLUS RUSHES IN.)

SOLUS:

(ENTERING) What's happening?

MERRION:

The Marshmen broke out from the tank. One's dead, the other is in there with Tegan.

SOLUS:

Where's Arana?

MERRION:

Dead.

SOLUS:

They killed her?

DOCTOR:

Later. Right now, the important thing is for us to get through this door. Where's the main circuit junction for this room?

SOLUS:

Behind you.

(FX: DOCTOR WALKS TO THE WALL. PUSHES A MECHANICAL SWITCH ON THE EDGE OF THE PANEL. IT OPENS.)

DOCTOR:

My, what an awful lot of circuitry. Now...

(FX: ROOTS THROUGH THE WIRING WITHIN THE PANEL.)

SOLUS:

Citizen, give me your gun. I'll handle this Marshman.

MERRION:

Stun setting, Solus. We must have him alive.

SOLUS:

Decider.

CROSS TO:

29. ALZARIUS BASE: TANK ROOM [CONTINUOUS]

MARSH LEADER:

(BREATHING BECOMING LESS EXTENDED AS HE BECOMES ACCLIMATISED, MORE ALERT.)

TEGAN:

(ALARMED) Doctor...

DOCTOR:

(THROUGH THE DOOR) One minute, Tegan.

MARSH LEADER:

(LOW, ANGRY GROWL)

TEGAN:

I don't think I've got a minute!

MARSH LEADER:

(FULLY ALERT, A THREATENING ROAR AS HE TURNS ON TEGAN.)

TEGAN:

Alright, let's see how you like this...

(FX: TEGAN TWISTS THE VALVE ON THE CYLINDER. HISSING BURST OF OXYGEN FROM THE CYLINDER, SEVERAL SECONDS LONG.)

MARSH LEADER:

(REACTS AS IF IN PAIN, RECOILS FROM OVER-RICH OXYGEN.)

TEGAN:

The oxygen worked!

(FX: SHE GIVES HIM ANOTHER BLAST.)

MARSH LEADER:

(AGAIN HE REACTS, BUT NOT QUITE SO FIERCELY)

TEGAN:

But I don't think it's going to work for long!

MARSH LEADER:

(LOUD, DEFIANT ROAR)

(FX: TEGAN TURNS THE VALVE AND THIS TIME SHE KEEPS IT OPEN, THE RUSH OF OXYGEN FULL ON AND CONTINUING.)

MARSH LEADER:

(ROAR OF PAIN AND PROTEST)

(FX: THE OXYGEN STUTTERS AND STOPS.)

TEGAN:

The oxygen's run out!!

(FX: THE MARSH LEADER MOVES FORWARD, VERY CLOSE NOW.)

MARSH LEADER:

(LOUDEST ROAR YET — ANGRY, VENGEFUL)

TEGAN:

Doctor!!!!

(FX: DOOR OPENS. THE DOCTOR, SOLUS, MERRION AND CITIZENS RUSH IN, FEET SPLASHING ON THE FLOOR.)

DOCTOR:

(ENTERING) Tegan! Get down!

MARSH LEADER:

(ROARS TOWARDS THE NEWCOMERS)

(FX: SEVERAL RAPID ROUNDS FROM AN ENERGY WEAPON, STRIKING THE MARSH LEADER REPEATEDLY.)

MARSH LEADER:

(CRIES OUT IN SEVERE PAIN, AND COLLAPSES.)

(FX: THE ENERGY ROUNDS CONTINUE UNTIL -)

MERRION:

Mr Solus, that's enough!!

(FX: THE WEAPON STOPS FIRING.)

SOLUS:

Just making sure. Citizens, get this thing to the cage before he wakes up.

(FX: TWO CITIZENS LIFT AND MANHANDLE THE MARSH LEADER OUT OF THE ROOM.)

MERRION:

Tegan, my dear. Did they harm you?

TEGAN:

(SHAKEN) I'm okay. Doctor, I felt the glass of the tank just before the Marshmen woke up. The water was cold.

(FX: SOLUS CROSSES TO THE WALL TEMPERATURE CONTROL AND TAPS IT.)

SOLUS:

The temperature gauge is still showing twenty four degrees.

MERRION:

An instrument fault?

DOCTOR:

No. It was deliberate. The circuit junction had been tampered with. The door and heating controls.

SOLUS:

More Outler sabotage! That wretched kid Fara.

MERRION:

It's a little sophisticated for him. And he would have needed to get into the base.

SOLUS:

I've said before, my security protocols are not being taken seriously. But this is the last straw. I'm going to take the transporter, I'm going to find him and drag him back here.

MERRION:

Don't underestimate him. Citizen Lemus is still missing, with no signal from his bio-implant.

SOLUS:

I'll be careful.

(FX: SOLUS HEADS FOR THE DOOR.)

MERRION:

Take two others with you.

SOLUS:

(LEAVING) Citizens? I'll get it done quicker on my own!

(FX: SOLUS EXITS.)

MERRION:

I wish that infuriating man wasn't so annoyingly useful...

TEGAN:

Meanwhile, hello?? I'm soaking here!

MERRION:

But of course. I'll take you to my quarters. We'll get you a change of clothes.

TEGAN:

Thank you.

(FX: TEGAN AND MERRION MOVE TOWARDS THE DOOR, THE DOCTOR FOLLOWS.)

DOCTOR:

(LEAVING) Then you and I can continue our conversation,
Decider.

(FX: THE THREE OF THEM EXIT. FADE)

30. MERRION'S QUARTERS [FEW MOMENTS LATER]

(FX: DOOR OPENS)

MERRION:

(ENTERING) My quarters. It's not much, I'm afraid.

TEGAN:

(ENTERING) I dunno. It's bigger than my room on the TARDIS.

DOCTOR:

(ENTERING) Tidier, too.

(FX: DOOR CLOSSES BEHIND.)

MERRION:

I'll call my aide.

(FX: SHE PRESSES A COMMUNICATOR SWITCH.)

MERRION:

(CONTINUED) Fem?

FEM: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

Yes, Decider?

MERRION:

Can you come to my quarters?

FEM: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

I'll be right there.

(FX: MERRION CLOSSES COMMUNICATOR.)

DOCTOR:

Decider... You were going to tell me about the purpose of this expedition?

MERRION:

We are the fourth expedition to Alzarius, Doctor. Part of an undertaking to learn more about who we are, and our potential.

DOCTOR:

The Marshmen being your ancestors, of course.

MERRION:

We retain some traces of their super-evolutionary abilities. We recover quickly from minor injuries – that's a Marshman trait. It may be we have other of their abilities latent within us.

TEGAN:

Such as?

MERRION:

We know they have some form of telepathy. It may be that we could develop our own telepathic skills if we better understood how it manifests in the marsh creatures.

DOCTOR:

How do you propose to understand it better?

(FX: ELECTRONIC TONE FROM THE DOOR.)

MERRION:

My aide is here. (CALLING) Come in, Fem.

(FX: DOOR SLIDES OPEN.)

FEM:

(ENTERING) You have a task for me, Decider?

TEGAN:

(INVOLUNTARY, FRIGHTENED CRY)

DOCTOR:

Tegan! (TO FEM) I'm so sorry – Fem? Your appearance startled my friend.

TEGAN:

(REGAINING HER COMPOSURE) I apologise on my own behalf, thank you. (TO FEM) I'm very sorry... Are you...?

FEM:

Am I...?

MERRION:

Fem is not a marsh creature, Tegan. But she once was.

FEM:

(KINDLY) I am aware I look odd to your eyes. I am not offended. Please, say what you feel.

TEGAN:

You look... well, a bit like us. But still, there's the...
(HESITATES)

FEM:

Bald pate? Prominent veins? Pale skin? Uncontrollable urge to kill?

TEGAN:

Um...

FEM:

My little joke.

TEGAN:

I knew that. (NERVOUS LAUGH)

MERRION:

Fem, could you take Tegan through to my sleeping quarters? Provide her with dry clothes from among my wardrobe.

TEGAN:

I'd appreciate that, thank you.

FEM:

Decider.

(FX: TEGAN AND FEM APPROACH A FURTHER DOOR THAT SLIDES OPEN. THEY PASS THROUGH, IT CLOSES BEHIND THEM.)

MERRION:

Fem was collected as a Marshchild, in her pod, eight years ago – during the last expedition to Alzarius.

DOCTOR:

'Collected'? You mean kidnapped?

MERRION:

Doctor, please. I commanded that last expedition, I cared for Fem when she first arrived on New Alzarius, and I have taken her into my home. She's like a member of my family. And she's happy.

DOCTOR:

She's evolved so far in just eight years?

MERRION:

Remarkable, isn't it? She's still more Marshchild than New Alzarian, but nevertheless..

DOCTOR:

The speech patterns are flawless.

MERRION:

She's remarkably intelligent, a quick study. We've learned a lot from her, but there's much more to know. She will be crucial to this expedition, helping us communicate with the Marshmen.

DOCTOR:

Communicate? With the Marshman you captured?

MERRION:

And with the others when they come out from the marsh.

DOCTOR:

When they...? You're talking about Mistfall.

MERRION:

Of course.

DOCTOR:

(ALARMED) You've deliberately planned this expedition to coincide with Mistfall?

MERRION:

It's the culmination of our mission.

DOCTOR:

It's madness! This planet becomes entirely hostile during Mistfall. Not just the Marshmen, but – (STOPS HIMSELF) When is Mistfall due?

MERRION:

We cannot say precisely.

DOCTOR:

(ANGRILY) When??

MERRION:

Soon. A day, a week. Alzarius is entering the optimal orbital position for Mistfall to occur.

DOCTOR:

Then it could happen any time. And I have two friends who are still out there.

31. FARA'S SHIP

TURLOUGH:

Tell us, Fara, how did you and Drell meet up?

FARA:

Back home, I'm active in Haragi rights. Drell and I became friends following a natural disaster, a terrible flood, that killed many Haragi. Drell lost his family.

NYSSA:

I'm so sorry.

DRELL:

They are still with me, in my heart.

TURLOUGH:

You really think the two of you can stop this expedition?

FARA:

We'll try. We have to.

DRELL:

They steal from this world. At first they took plants, and soil, and water.

TURLOUGH:

Sounds like standard scientific research.

DRELL:

And last time they took a creature. Removed it from its own kind and returned with it to New Alzarius. The creature has become a hybrid.

NYSSA:

That sounds horrible.

FARA:

We are determined to stop this. Before Alzarius is despoiled any further, its nature stolen and its people uprooted. We would be glad of your help, if you're interested?

DRELL:

We need no others.

FARA:

But Drell, we could do so much more if it wasn't just the two of us.

NYSSA:

We have a friend. His name is the Doctor. You should speak to him. If there's injustice here, he'll want to put it right.

TURLOUGH:

(POINTEDLY) Not that this is any of our business. Nyssa.

FARA:

I would like to meet this Doctor.

NYSSA:

Come with us to our ship. He should be there by now.

TURLOUGH:

(SARCASTIC) Marvellous.

32. MERRION'S SLEEPING QUARTERS

(FX: SMALL LIVING SPACE. TEGAN IS FINISHING GETTING DRESSED, ZIPPING UP A TOP.)

FEM:

You look every part the citizen!

TEGAN:

Pretty basic gear, this.

FEM:

Expedition clothing is perfectly utilitarian.

TEGAN:

Apart from the lack of pockets.

FEM:

Let me fetch you a jacket from the Decider's locker.

(FX: FEM CROSSES TO THE LOCKER, OPENS IT, AND LIFTS OUT A JACKET, BEHIND:)

FEM:

(CONTINUED) Here, this should - (STOPS HERSELF) Eugh.

TEGAN:

What is it?

(FX: FEM BRUSHES HER HAND OVER THE JACKET.)

FEM:

There's something on the jacket. Cobwebs.

TEGAN:

Cobwebs? As in what you get from... ? (CATCHES HER BREATH) Fem. There's something moving in the pocket.

FEM:

Moving?

(FX: A LARGE SPIDER EMERGES CLICK-CLACKING FROM AMONG THE FOLDS OF THE JACKET.)

TEGAN:

Spider! Drop it! - Drop it!!!

(FX: FEM DROPS THE JACKET ON THE FLOOR. THE SPIDER MOVES ALONG THE FLOOR, CLICK-CLACK.)

TEGAN:

That's way bigger than any spider I ever saw back home.

(FX: THE SPIDER SCUTTLES FORWARD.)

TEGAN:

(CONTINUED) Fem, get back!

(FX: FEM HURRIES TO TEGAN'S SIDE. THE SPIDER SLOWS, TAKING DELIBERATE STEPS.)

FEM:

It came at me!

(FX: URGENT KNOCKING AT THE DOOR.)

DOCTOR:

(THROUGH THE DOOR) Tegan?! Are you alright?

TEGAN:

Doctor, come in, but be careful!

(FX: DOOR OPENS, THE DOCTOR AND MERRION ENTER.)

MERRION:

(ENTERING) Good grief! Where did that come from?!

DOCTOR:

Everyone, keep still. Don't let it get near you!

TEGAN:

Doctor, it's looking at me...

DOCTOR:

Tegan. When I say run...

(FX: SPIDER SCUTTLES FURTHER FORWARD, REARS UP, HISSES.)

DOCTOR:

Run! Don't let it touch you!

TEGAN:

(DODGING ASIDE) Don't worry!

(FX: AFTER THAT ATTACK, THE SPIDER STOPS, STEADY CLICK-CLACKS AS IT TURNS ITSELF SLOWLY ON THE FLOOR.)

TEGAN:

It moves so fast!

(FX: DOCTOR REMOVES HIS COAT.)

DOCTOR:

Perhaps if I can throw my coat over it, we might be able to...

(FX: MERRION STEPS FROWARD AND BRINGS HER BOOT DOWN ON THE SPIDER, CRUSHING IT.)

MERRION:

Alternatively, I could crush it.

(BEAT.)

TEGAN:

Yeah. That worked.

DOCTOR:

There was no need for that.

MERRION:

We must agree to differ. Fem, where did it come from?

FEM:

The locker.

DOCTOR:

This one?

(FX: THEY CROSS TO THE LOCKER, THE DOCTOR OPENS THE DOOR WIDE.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) Cobwebs, I see. And... Oh. Of course.

(FX: THE DOCTOR CROUCHES, LIFTS AN OBJECT FROM THE FLOOR OF THE LOCKER.)

TEGAN:

That looks like a rockmelon!

DOCTOR:

It's a riverfruit. Or the remains of one. A staple food in these parts. Close to Mistfall, they sometimes host Marshspider eggs.

TEGAN:

How did it get in there?

MERRION:

It must have been placed here by the Outler. The boy Fara again! I'll get security in here, make sure there are no more of these riverfruit. Fem, with me.

FEM:

Yes, Decider.

(FX: MERRION AND FEM EXIT.)

TEGAN:

Why would someone leave that here? To kill Merrion?

DOCTOR:

It's hardly a precise murder weapon. But more to the point, I don't see how these Outlers could get into the base and into a Decider's quarters without being spotted.

TEGAN:

You don't think this Fara did it?

DOCTOR:

I think planting that riverfruit would have been a lot easier for someone already working on the base.

TEGAN:

An inside job?

DOCTOR:

Very likely.

33. FOREST TRACK

(FX: NYSSA, TURLOUGH, FARA AND DRELL, WALKING ALONG.)

DRELL:

You said you landed near a waterfall. We know that place. It is not far.

TURLOUGH:

You know your way around.

FARA:

We've had to learn, to keep out of sight of the citizens.

TURLOUGH:

(SUDDEN) Hang on. Can you feel that?

(FX: THE GROUP COMES TO A HALT.)

NYSSA:

What is it?

(FX: A SLIGHT GROUND TREMOR.)

TURLOUGH:

The ground is shaking.

(FX: NEARBY, SMALL POCKETS OF GAS ARE VENTED FROM THE GROUND. MOISTURE IN THE GROUND BUBBLES OVER. CONTINUING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

FARA:

(DELIGHTED) Oh this is wonderful. This is how it always starts. Tremors underground, venting gases on the surface. The mists will follow shortly.

DRELL:

Mistfall is coming. The Marshmen will awaken.

34. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT

(FX: THE DOCTOR, MERRION, TEGAN AND FEM ENTER, CROSS TO A TABLE.)

MERRION:

(APPROACHING) Put the spider remains on the bench, Fem. The science team can examine the carcass.

FEM:

Yes, Decider.

(FX: FEM PLACES A METAL TRAY ON A TABLETOP. NEARBY, THE BARS OF THE CAGE ARE RATTLED ANGRILY.)

MARSH LEADER:

(FROM WITHIN THE CELL) (LOW GROWLS)

TEGAN:

The Marshman's woken up, then.

MERRION:

He's safe in that cage. It's secured with a mechanical lock. No Outler sabotage will be able to set him free.

DOCTOR:

You said the Marshmen were intelligent beings. And yet you put him in a cage.

MERRION:

Be reasonable, Doctor. You saw how violent he was. They're feral when they're revived.

FEM:

(LOW MOAN)

MERRION:

Fem. Are you alright?

FEM:

I felt a pain... or maybe not a pain exactly... In my head.

MARSH LEADER:

(LOW, DRAWN OUT GROWL)

FEM:

It's him. The Marshman.

(FX: FEM CROSSES TOWARDS THE MARSH LEADER.)

FEM:

(CONTINUED) Are you trying to communicate with me? Are you... ?

MARSH LEADER:

(SUDDEN LOUD, ANGRY ROAR AS HE LASHES OUT AT FEM THROUGH THE BARS)

FEM:

(CRIES OUT, BACKING AWAY)

DOCTOR:

Fem?

FEM:

I'm fine... Sorry, I didn't mean to agitate him.

DOCTOR:

You felt the Marshman in your head?

FEM:

A definite contact of some kind. Not like speech, more like... concepts. Fear. Pain.

(FX: AN ALARM SOUNDS FROM NEARBY INSTRUMENTS. MERRION CROSSES TO THE WORKSTATION, ACTIVATES A CONTROL. THE ALARM STOPS, AN ELECTRONIC READOUT BEEPS ACROSS A SCREEN.)

TEGAN:

What's happening?

MERRION:

Our instruments are picking up low level seismic activity, in pockets, all across the planet.

TEGAN:

Seismic activity? Like an earthquake?

DOCTOR:

It's not an earthquake, is it, Decider? It's Mistfall.

MERRION:

Correct.

FEM:

This is the first sign of Mistfall, Tegan. Subterranean tremors.

(FX: MERRION OPENS A COMMAND CHANNEL. AS SHE SPEAKS WE HEAR HER VOICE REVERBERATE THROUGH SPEAKERS ACROSS THE BASE.)

MERRION:

This is Decider Merrion to all Alzarius Base personnel. We have Mistfall. Repeat, we have Mistfall. Begin lockdown procedures.

DOCTOR:

Lockdown? Now wait a minute..

MERRION:

Remember your training – calm and measured. No panic. This is what we're here for. Good luck everyone.

(FX: MERRION CLOSES THE COMMS CHANNEL.)

TEGAN:

Doctor, Turlough and Nyssa are out there!

MERRION:

This base will shortly go into secure lockdown. When it does it will be the only safe place on the planet.

DOCTOR:

Nonetheless, I need to locate my friends.

(FX: COMMUNICATIONS STATION COMES TO LIFE WITH A BURST OF STATIC, FOLLOWED BY:)

SOLUS: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

Solus to Alzarius Base. Can you hear me? Over.

MERRION:

Solus?!

(FX: MERRION KEYS A SWITCH ON THE COMMS STATION.)

MERRION:

(CONTINUED) Solus, where are you?

SOLUS: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

I'm looking for the Outler like I said.

MERRION:

You should return to base. Mistfall is beginning.

35. SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: WITHIN THE CABIN. THE ENGINE IS IDLING.)

SOLUS:

I know it's Mistfall, I'm looking at it. How long until full lockdown?

MERRION: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

An hour at the most.

SOLUS:

I'll give it half an hour, then I'll head in.

MERRION: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

(RELUCTANTLY) Very well. – And Solus? There are others for you to look out for.

SOLUS:

Others?

DOCTOR: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

Two friends of mine, Mr Solus – a young man and woman.

TEGAN: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

They're called Turlough and Nyssa.

SOLUS:

I'll keep an eye out for them.

MERRION: (COMMUNICATOR FILTER)

We'll prepare drone coverage. If we see either the Outlers or the Doctor's friends we'll let you know.

SOLUS:

Understood. Solus out.

(FX: HE CLOSES THE CHANNEL.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) Your friends can look after themselves, Doctor. I've got other priorities.

(FX: HE RE-ENGAGES THE ENGINE AND DRIVES ON.)

36. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT

MERRION:

There you are, Doctor. Solus will find your friends if they're out there.

TEGAN:

In the mist? In half an hour?

DOCTOR:

What did you mean by 'drone coverage', Decider?

MERRION:

I'll show you.

37. MARSHLANDS

(FX: FARA, DRELL, NYSSA AND TEGAN COME OUT FROM THE FOREST TO THE EDGE OF THE WATER. A BREEZE HAS PICKED UP, WHISPERING THROUGH THE TREES, STIRRING THE MARSH REEDS.)

FARA:

The mist is getting thicker.

NYSSA:

Yes. It seems to be thickest here by the marsh.

TURLOUGH:

Aren't we supposed to be heading to the TARDIS?

FARA:

This is more important.

DRELL:

It is Mistfall!

38. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT

(FX: MERRION OPERATES A SERIES OF SWITCHES. AS SHE DOES, MULTIPLE CORRESPONDING MONITORS COME TO LIFE.)

MERRION:

Part of our procedures for monitoring Mistfall include the deployment of aerial drones, equipped with infra-red imaging. They can detect movement even through thick mist. The images come up on these screens.

TEGAN:

Then they could be used to search for Nyssa and Turlough?

MERRION:

Marshmen have a distinctive body heat signature. Your friends will look very different. We'll find them. And when we do, we'll send out a fast recovery squad to bring them back.

(FX: A SUDDEN LOUD, RESONANT VIBRATION FILLS THE ROOM. INSTRUMENT PANELS COME ALIVE WITH WARNING ALARMS.)

DOCTOR:

What's that?

MERRION:

I don't know... Power outputs seem to be rising.

DOCTOR:

Let me see.

(FX: HE CROSSES TO AN INSTRUMENT PANEL, OPERATES CONTROLS, EXAMINES A READING.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) Your ship's power core is surging.

MERRION:

Sabotage again!

(FX: THE DOCTOR TAPS ANOTHER CONTROL, A READING BLEEPS OUT.)

DOCTOR:

Your central power control programming has been corrupted. It's not responding. The power core is going critical.

MERRION:

There must be a way to stop it.

(FX: RESONANCE RISES IN PITCH, THE WHOLE ROOM SHAKING.)

MARSH LEADER:

(PANICKED, ROARS AND HOWLS)

TEGAN:

The Marshman isn't too happy.

(FX: FEM APPROACHES CAGE)

FEM:

Please, I know you're afraid. But calm down.

TEGAN:

Can he understand you?

FEM:

I don't know. I feel his fear, I don't know if he's getting anything from me...

(FX: THE POWER STUTTERS, SOME WORKSTATIONS ERUPT WITH SPARKING ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS.)

MERRION:

If we can't stop this, the ship and this entire base will be destroyed.

DOCTOR:

I'm trying...

(FX: THE DOCTOR URGENTLY OPERATES CONTROLS AT THE WORKSTATION.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) The power surge has gone into an exponential loop.

(FX: THE DOCTOR BUSILY OPERATES A KEYBOARD, ENTERING PROGRAMMING INSTRUCTIONS.)

TEGAN:

That's bad, right? (NO REPLY) Doctor...?

DOCTOR:

Not now, Tegan. I'm busy!

39. MARSHLANDS

TURLOUGH:

Fara, this is not a good idea. We should leave.

FARA:

I want to see them. The Marshmen.

NYSSA:

I know about the Marshmen. They're dangerous.

DRELL:

It may be wise to withdraw.

FARA:

Drell?

DRELL:

To observe from a distance.

(FX: THE WATER RIPPLES AND BUBBLES, DISTURBED FROM BENEATH.)

FARA:

Ha! Too late now.

TURLOUGH:

Nyssa, we have to leave!

NYSSA:

Fara, please! It's not safe!

FARA:

They're coming...

MARSHMEN:

(EMERGING FROM THE WATER, SNORTING AND ROARING)

(FX: THE MARSHMEN EMERGE EN MASSE FROM THE WATER. THEY START TOWARDS THE SHORE.)

FARA:

Aren't they beautiful? Wonders of nature.

TURLOUGH:

Nyssa! Come on!

DRELL:

Both of you, stay very still.

TURLOUGH:

Why?

DRELL:

Do not run. It is not safe. Not yet.

NYSSA:

Turlough. Do as he says.

DRELL:

They do not yet know we are here. If you make a sudden movement, they will.

(FX: THE MARSHMEN COME OUT OF THE WATER, WALK A SHORT DISTANCE.)

FARA:

Oh welcome. Welcome!

DRELL:

Yan Fara. Be silent.

(FX: THE MARSHMEN HALT AND BEGIN THEIR ACCLIMATISATION PROCESS. DEEP, RATTLING INHALATIONS AND EXHALATIONS.)

NYSSA:

They've stopped.

DRELL:

We will leave now. Move slowly, back away.

(FX: NYSSA, TURLOUGH AND DRELL START MOVING AWAY.)

FARA:

(CALLING) Where are you going? Why should they want to hurt us?

TURLOUGH:

(MOVING AWAY) Will you keep your voice down?

FARA:

But they're magnificent. Look at [- them]

MARSHMAN:

(FULLY REVIVED, MAKES A LOUD, FEROCIOUS ROAR AND SWIPES AT FARA)

(FX: THE MARSHMAN STRIKES FARA, WHO IS THROWN BACK AND HITS THE GROUND.)

FARA:

(CRIES OUT AS HE'S KNOCKED BACK; THEN WRITHES IN AGONY) My arm..

MARSHMEN:

(AS A GROUP THEY ARE NOW REVIVED, AND HOLLER A THREATENING ROAR.)

DRELL:

(LIFTING FARA) You must stand, Yan Fara.

FARA:

(WINCES AS HE STANDS)

NYSSA:

You'll be all right.

TURLOUGH:

Everyone ready? – Now run!!

(FX: THEY RUN FOR THEIR LIVES INTO THE FOREST. THE MARSHMEN CHARGE AFTER THEM, ROARING AS THEY COME.)

40. ALZARIUS BASE: SCIENCE UNIT

(FX: POWER SURGE CONTINUES TO ESCALATE. DOCTOR CONTINUES TO TAP AWAY AT THE INSTRUMENTS IN FRONT OF HIM. FURTHER SPARKING ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS. MARSH LEADER CONTINUES TO RATTLE BARS OF HIS CAGE.)

MARSH LEADER:

(WAILS IN FEAR.)

(FOLLOWING DIALOGUE PITCHED UP OVER THE NOISE:)

MERRION:

Well, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Still not responding. You should evacuate, Decider.

MERRION:

But it's Mistfall!

DOCTOR:

Lana. We have only minutes.

TEGAN:

You heard the Doctor. You have to get everyone out.

(BEAT.)

MERRION:

(TO THE ROOM) Sound the alert. Evacuation procedures! All citizens are to leave the base!

(FX: A KLAXON SOUNDS, REVERBERATING AROUND THE BASE.)

MERRION:

Now, all of you, out!

(FX: CITIZENS AND SCIENTISTS IN THE ROOM RUN OUT. ONLY THE DOCTOR, MERRION, TEGAN AND FEM REMAIN.)

TEGAN:

Decider. What about the Marshman? You can't leave him here.

MERRION:

If we release him he'll attack us. There isn't time to tranquilise and move him. He stays.

FEM:

But, Decider...

MERRION:

That's my decision.

(FX: FEM PICKS UP A SET OF KEYS FROM A TABLETOP AND APPROACHES THE CAGE.)

MERRION:

(ANGRY) Fem! What are you doing?

FEM:

I'm going to unlock the cage.

MERRION:

No you are not.

FEM:

I'm sorry, Decider.

MERRION:

You've never challenged me before.

DOCTOR:

Fem is quite right. We can't leave the Marshman to die.

MERRION:

You do not give orders here, Doctor.

DOCTOR:

There's no way now of stopping a critical power failure. We have to leave. Fem, open the cage.

(FX: FEM PLACES THE KEY IN THE CAGE LOCK.)

MARSH LEADER:

(ROARS AT FEM)

FEM:

(NERVOUS) I hope you can understand me... We mean you no harm... Here goes.

(FX: FEM TURNS THE KEY IN THE LOCK. CAGE DOOR SWINGS OPEN. AND THE MARSH LEADER CHARGES OUT.)

MARSH LEADER:

(CHARGING FORWARD WITH AN ANGRY, RATTLING CRY.)

FEM:

(CRIES OUT AS THE MARSH LEADER RUSHES PAST HER)

(FX: MARSH LEADER STRIKES OUT WITH HIS ARMS, ATTACKING INSTRUMENT PANELS.)

TEGAN:

He's attacking the instruments!

DOCTOR:

We have to go. Come on, everyone. Run!!

(FX: THE DOCTOR, TEGAN, MERRION AND FEM ALL RUN OUT. POWER SURGE CONTINUES TO BUILD.)

MARSH LEADER:

(ROARS DEFIANTLY AGAINST THE CACOPHONY AROUND HIM)

CROSS TO:

41. ALZARIUS BASE EXTERIOR

(FX: ESCALATING POWER SURGE, HEARD FROM WITHIN THE BUILDING, IS REACHING A PROTESTING WHINE NOW, CLOSE TO CATASTROPHE. DOCTOR, TEGAN, MERRION AND FEM RUN OUT AND INTO THE FOREST.)

TEGAN:

(RUNNING) Doctor?!

DOCTOR:

(RUNNING) I'm right behind you, Tegan! Run! And keep running!

(FX: BUILD-UP OF POWER REACHES A STUTTERING CRESCENDO, ABOUT TO COLLAPSE IN ON ITSELF... THEN: AN ENORMOUS EXPLOSION.)

DOCTOR, TEGAN, FEM AND MERRION:

(CRY OUT AS THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION KNOCKS THEM OFF THEIR FEET)

(FX: THE FOUR OF THEM HIT THE GROUND. INITIAL EXPLOSION IS FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL OTHERS, AS DIFFERENT MODULES OF THE BASE GO UP.)

CROSS TO:

42. FOREST TRACK.

(FX: THE EXPLOSIONS ARE HEARD IN THE DISTANCE. NYSSA, TURLOUGH, FARA AND DRELL COME RUNNING TOWARDS US AND STOP, GATHERING THEIR BREATH.)

TURLOUGH:

(RECOVERING BREATH) Did you hear that? That was an explosion!

NYSSA:

(RECOVERING BREATH) More than one.

DRELL:

(RECOVERING BREATH) The scientists' base.

FARA:

(RECOVERING BREATH, AND ALSO IN PAIN) My arm, I think the Marshman broke it.

(FX: TURLOUGH, QUICK AS HE CAN, REMOVES HIS TIE AND KNOTS THE ENDS, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

TURLOUGH:

Here. Use my tie as a sling. It's all we can do for now.

FARA:

What? (CRIES OUT IN PAIN AS TURLOUGH PLACES HIS ARM IN THE SLING)

TURLOUGH:

Use your good arm for extra support.

FARA:

(WHIMPERS, REGAINING SOME COMPOSURE)

NYSSA:

We need to get to the TARDIS.

TURLOUGH:

Yes, but can we even find the way in this mist?

MARSHMEN:

(ANGRY CRIES IN THE NEAR DISTANCE, CARRYING THROUGH THE MIST)

NYSSA:

Well we can't stay here. Come on.

(FX: THEY MOVE ON INTO THE FOREST.)

CROSS TO:

43. FOREST CLEARING

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE — WITH THE MISTS HAS COME A STRONG BREEZE THAT RUSTLES THROUGH THE TREES AND OTHER FOLIAGE. THE SURVIVORS OF THE ALZARIUS BASE ARE GATHERED, A LARGE GROUP. SOME FEW EQUIPMENT PACKS BEING PLACED DOWN. NEARBY, THE BASE IS IN FLAMES.)

DOCTOR:

Is everyone all right?

TEGAN:

I think so.

FEM:

The Marshman... he must have been killed.

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry, Fem.

MERRION:

This isn't quite everyone. Some didn't get out.

DOCTOR:

I make it about thirty of us.

MARSHMEN:

(IN THE DISTANCE, A LARGE GROUP — EXTENDED THREATENING CRIES)

FEM:

Marshmen!

TEGAN:

A whole load of Marshmen, it sounds like!

DOCTOR:

That was a very big bang. I imagine every Marshman within miles is heading our way right now...

END OF PART TWO

PART THREE

OPENING TITLES

REPRISE:

MARSHMEN:

(IN THE DISTANCE, A LARGE GROUP – EXTENDED THREATENING CRIES)

FEM:

Marshmen!

TEGAN:

A whole load of Marshmen, it sounds like!

DOCTOR:

That was a very big bang. I imagine every Marshman within miles is heading our way right now..

CONTINUES INTO:

44. FOREST CLEARING [CONTINUOUS]

TEGAN:

What?! – Then we need to get under cover!

MERRION:

We have no shelter. We have no weapons. We're not a military operation, the few guns we had went up with the base.

DOCTOR:

We should try to get to the TARDIS.

MERRION:

Your blue ship. Of course.

TEGAN:

Can we even find our way back there, in this mist?

DOCTOR:

That's the tricky part. It will be in... that direction, I think.

TEGAN:

You think??

DOCTOR:

I'm... fairly sure.

MERRION:

That will have to do. (TO GROUP) Everyone, get ready to move out!

(FX: GROUP START ORGANISING, GATHERING TOGETHER. CONTINUES BEHIND:)

TEGAN:

Doctor. That explosion. If it was deliberate, how could this Outler they were talking about have done it?

DOCTOR:

I was thinking the same thing. (CALLS) Decider? Could I have a quiet word?

(FX: MERRION APPROACHES DOCTOR.)

MERRION:

Yes?

DOCTOR:

(QUIETLY; THIS IS BETWEEN HIM, TEGAN AND MERRION) The water tank. The spider in your locker. Now the pre-programmed meltdown of your power core. How likely do you think it is that this Outler Fara could have been responsible for all that, inside your base?

MERRION:

What are you saying?

DOCTOR:

Watch your people, Decider. There may be someone else working against the best interests of this expedition. Be careful who you trust.

MERRION:

I trust my people. But... I'll bear it in mind.

(FX: MERRION MOVES AWAY.)

TEGAN:

Well that's great. Marshmen out there, and maybe another killer or killers right here?

DOCTOR:

That sums it up nicely.

45. RIVERSIDE.

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. RIVER RUNNING THROUGH FOREST. SHALLOW WATER FLOWING FAST OVER A ROCK BED. NYSSA, TURLOUGH, FARA AND DRELL COME OUT OF FOREST AND HALT.)

NYSSA:

A river. Fara, Drell, do you know where we are?

DRELL:

I am not sure.

TURLOUGH:

Wait. This is good. The TARDIS landed by a waterfall. That waterfall fed into a river. If this is that river, all we need to do is head upstream.

NYSSA:

It might take us to the waterfall.

TURLOUGH:

And the TARDIS, exactly!

FARA:

(STILL IN PAIN) Possibly.

DRELL:

I think it is a good plan.

MARSHMEN:

(DISTANT) (ROARS)

TURLOUGH:

It had better be – it's our only one.

(FX: TURLOUGH LEADS; THE OTHERS FOLLOW.)

46. FOREST: AMONG TREES

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. DOCTOR AND MERRION LEADING TEGAN, FEM AND THEIR GROUP THROUGH TREES.)

MERRION:

Oh this is impossible. We can't see more than twenty metres in this mist...

TEGAN:

How much further, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Hard to say, working our way round that ravine took rather longer than [I'd anticipated.]

MARSHMAN:

(DISTANT - SUDDEN ROAR)

MALE CITIZEN:

(DISTANT - SCREAMS AS HE'S SEIZED AND DRAGGED OFF)

MERRION:

Stop! (FX: ALL HALT) What was that?!

TEGAN:

Someone's in trouble. But I can't tell where that cry came from.

FEM:

One of the citizens must have become separated from us in the mist.

TEGAN:

Then let's go and help them!

MERRION:

If the Marshmen took him, it's already too late.

TEGAN:

What?!

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry to say, the Decider's right, Tegan.

MARSHMEN:

(ROARS - IN MIDDLE DISTANCE AND COMING CLOSER)

MERRION:

Marshmen! Up ahead.

TEGAN:

We've got Marshmen behind and in front?

DOCTOR:

We need to change direction. This way.

(FX: THE DOCTOR STRIDES OUT TO THE RIGHT.)

MERRION:

(HUSHED CALL) Everyone, this way, keep together.

(FX: THE REST OF THE GROUP STRIKE OUT AFTER THE DOCTOR.)

47. FOREST: BY WATERFALL

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. WATERFALL CASCADES NEARBY AS NYSSA, TURLOUGH, FARA AND DRELL EMERGE AND APPROACH TARDIS.)

TURLOUGH:

(APPROACHING) The TARDIS. We made it!

DRELL:

(APPROACHING) That is your ship?

FARA:

It's even smaller than mine.

NYSSA:

Appearances can be deceptive.

(FX: SHE OPENS TARDIS DOOR.)

NYSSA:

(CONTINUED) You'd better come in.

(FX: THEY ENTER. FOLLOW THEM INTO:)

48. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: AMBIENCE OF THE TARDIS AT REST. DOORS OPEN. TURLOUGH, NYSSA, FARA AND DRELL ENTER.)

TURLOUGH:

(ENTERING) No sign of the Doctor.

NYSSA:

(ENTERING) He should have returned by now.

FARA:

(ENTERING – NURSING HIS ARM) I don't believe it.

DRELL:

(ENTERING) This is not right.

TURLOUGH:

It takes a bit of getting used to, the bigger-on-the-inside thing.

DRELL

(GROWING ANGRY) This is... not... NATURAL!

FARA:

Calm down, Drell.

NYSSA:

Drell, you'll be quite safe here. Don't be afraid.

DRELL:

I am not afraid. I am angry. (GIVES A YELL AS HE ATTACKS THE CONSOLE.)

(FX: DRELL DRAWS HIS BLADE AND STRIKES REPEATEDLY AT THE CONSOLE. ELECTRICAL SPARKS FROM SOME OF THE INSTRUMENTS.)

DRELL:

(CONTINUED) This thing is an abomination!!

TURLOUGH:

You maniac! What do you think you're doing, stabbing the console?!

NYSSA:

Don't just stand there, Turlough – stop him!

TURLOUGH:

Me? – Oh, this is ridiculous.

(FX: DRELL BREAKS OFF ATTACKING CONSOLE)

DRELL:

(CALMER) What is that?

TURLOUGH:

What?

DRELL:

That... crystal. It is beautiful. It glows.

(FX: DRELL PICKS UP THE INTERFACE STABILISER FROM THE CONSOLE. IT EMITS A SOFT TONE AS HE TURNS IT IN HIS HAND.)

TURLOUGH:

Some piece of the TARDIS. The Doctor was trying to fix it.

NYSSA:

The interface stabiliser. Please put it back.

TURLOUGH:

I'd better shut the doors in the meantime. Don't want any Marshmen wandering in.

(FX: HE OPERATES THE DOOR CONTROL. THE DOORS BEGIN TO CLOSE.)

DRELL:

(SUDDENLY PANICKED) No! I will not stay in this place!!

(FX: DRELL RUNS TOWARDS THE SHUTTING DOORS.)

FARA:

Drell! NO! Come back!

(FX: DRELL RUNS OUT AND THE DOORS SHUT BEHIND HIM.)

FARA:

(CONTINUED) Drell!!! (FRUSTRATED) He can tolerate most technology. But this... all this was too much for him.

NYSSA:

I'm going after him.

(FX: SHE OPERATES THE DOOR CONTROLS. THEY OPEN.)

TURLOUGH:

Don't tell me you've lost your mind as well?!

NYSSA:

Without the interface stabiliser we might never be able to leave this universe.

(FX: SHE RUSHES OUT.)

TURLOUGH:

Nyssa, wait a minute! It's too dangerous!

FARA:

Should we go after her?

TURLOUGH:

(EXASPERATED SIGH) I suppose we probably should. Come on!

(FX: THEY RUN OUT, THE DOORS CLOSE.)

49. FOREST: AMONG THE TREES.

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. THE DOCTOR, TEGAN AND FEM, AND MOST OF THEIR GROUP, COME TOWARDS US ON THE LEAFY GROUND AND STOP.)

TEGAN:

How much further?

DOCTOR:

I'm not sure. Like I said, we're a long way from our original route.

(FX: MERRION APPROACHES AND JOINS THE GROUP.)

MERRION:

(APPROACHING) We've lost two more of our people.

DOCTOR:

The Marshmen are picking us off.

MARSHMEN:

(IN THE NEAR DISTANCE, AHEAD OF US – ROARS)

TEGAN:

They're close.

DOCTOR:

And in our path. We'll have to change tack.

TEGAN:

Again! I hope you've not lost your sense of direction, because I have.

DOCTOR:

This way, I think.

FEM:

That takes us deeper into the forest.

DOCTOR:

For now it's the only direction available to us without meeting Marshmen.

TEGAN:

You hope.

(FX: THE GROUP WALKS ON.)

50. FOREST CLEARING

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. DRELL RUNS INTO THE CLEARING AND STOPS, GETTING HIS BEARINGS.)

MARSHMEN:

(DISTANT) (ROARS)

DRELL:

(RECOVERING HIS BREATH) If those creatures are my doom, so be it...

(FX: NYSSA RUNS INTO THE CLEARING AND STOPS.)

NYSSA:

(RECOVERING HER BREATH) Drell, come back.

DRELL:

I will not enter that place again.

NYSSA:

Please, give me the red crystal.

DRELL:

This? I do not think so.

(FX: DRELL TAKES THE CRYSTAL FROM A POUCH. IT EMITS ITS TONE.)

NYSSA:

We need it for our ship.

DRELL:

I will not help you work that 'ship'.

(FX: TURLOUGH AND FARA RUN INTO THE CLEARING.)

TURLOUGH:

(BREATHLESS) There you are.

FARA:

Drell, give them their crystal. You and me, we'll find our way back to our own ship. We might be safe there.

DRELL:

I do not think so.

(FX: SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER APPROACHES AND ENTERS THE CLEARING.)

TURLOUGH:

Wait! – There's some sort of vehicle approaching!

FARA:

The expedition transporter!

NYSSA:

Rescue?

TURLOUGH:

(HAPPILY) It looks like it.

(FX: THE TRANSPORTER COMES TO A HALT, ITS ENGINE IDLING. CABIN DOOR OPENS AND SOLUS CLIMBS DOWN.)

SOLUS:

Well, well. What have we here?

51. FOREST: GULLY

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. DOCTOR LEADS THE GROUP OF CITIZENS INTO THE GULLY. THEY GATHER TOGETHER.)

DOCTOR:

This gully should make a good place to rest for a short while.

MERRION:

Doctor, do we stand any hope of finding this ship of yours?

DOCTOR:

We may have to consider our options.

MERRION:

Meaning?

DOCTOR:

If we stay in this forest, in the mist, it's only a matter of time before the Marshmen close in on us. If we can't get to the TARDIS soon, another option is to go to the hills.

FEM:

That would help?

DOCTOR:

We might get high enough that we'd be above the mist.

MERRION:

There are caves in the hills.

DOCTOR:

Defensible positions. Even better.

FEM:

Doctor? Where is Tegan?

DOCTOR:

Tegan? She was just -...

(FX: DOCTOR TAKES A FEW STRIDES, LOOKING AROUND THE GROUP.)

DOCTOR:

Tegan? - Has anyone seen Tegan?

CITIZENS:

(DEMURRALS) "No"... "Not for a while"... "Sorry"

DOCTOR:

Oh no...

CROSS TO:

52. FOREST: AMONG THE TREES

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. TEGAN MOVES UNCERTAINLY THROUGH THE FOREST.)

TEGAN:

(VOICE RAISED AS HIGH AS SHE DARES) Doctor? ... Doctor? (NO REPLY.) This stupid mist! Doctor-! Why'd you have to go charging off...?

(FX: VERY CLOSE BY, A TWIG SNAPS. TEGAN COMES TO A SHARP HALT.)

TEGAN

Who's that?! (NO REPLY) Is someone there... ?

(FX: SHE STEPS FORWARD. THEN AGAIN. CAREFUL STEPS.)

TEGAN:

... Hello?

(FX: VERY SUDDENLY, A MARSHMAN LOOMS UP FROM A CROUCHING POSITION, PUSHING FOLIAGE OUT OF HIS WAY.)

MARSH LEADER:

(CHALLENGING, BLOOD-CURDLING ROAR)

TEGAN

(CRIES OUT - FULL VOLUME)

CROSS DIRECTLY TO:

53. FOREST: GULLY. [CONTINUOUS]

TEGAN:

(MIDDLE DISTANCE — HER SCREAM ECHOING THROUGH FOREST)

DOCTOR:

That's Tegan!

(FX: THE DOCTOR RUNS OFF TOWARDS THE SOUND OF TEGAN'S CRIES)

MERRION

Doctor, come back!

FEM:

I'm going to help.

(FX: FEM RUNS AFTER THE DOCTOR.)

MERRION:

Fem! We need to stay together!

(FX: FEM KEEPS RUNNING.)

MERRION:

(EXASPERATED) We'll follow them. Everyone, with me.

(FX: MERRION LEADS THE CITIZENS INTO THE MIST AFTER FEM.)

54. FOREST: IN THE TREES

(FX: MARSH LEADER MOVES TOWARDS TEGAN. SHE STUMBLES BACKWARDS)

TEGAN:

Get back! Stay away!

MARSH LEADER:

(ROARS, THEN COLLAPSES WITH A GROAN OF PAIN)

(FX: MARSH LEADER COLLAPSES ON THE FOREST FLOOR.)

TEGAN:

What... ?

MARSH LEADER:

(GROANS – CONTINUING INTERMITTENTLY BEHIND THE FOLLOWING)

TEGAN

You're injured... (RECOGNISES HIM) Hey, wait a minute.

(FX: TEGAN MOVES TOWARDS THE MARSH LEADER, CROUCHES BESIDE HIM.)

TEGAN:

(CONTINUED) It's you, isn't it... ?

(FX: THE DOCTOR RUNS IN, COMES TO A HALT.)

DOCTOR:

Tegan! ... Get away from him!

(FX: FEM RUNS IN AND STOPS.)

FEM:

Tegan!

TEGAN:

Doctor. Fem. This is the Marshman from the base.

DOCTOR:

Are you sure?

TEGAN

He's got burns, one or two open wounds.

DOCTOR:

Let me see.

MERRION:

(NEARBY) (HUSHED CALL) Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Over here, Decider.

(FX: THE DOCTOR CROUCHES NEXT TO TEGAN AND THE MARSH LEADER. MERRION AND THE CITIZENS APPROACH.)

MARSH LEADER:

(PAINED MOAN, A LOW RATTLING EXHALATION)

FEM:

(QUIET) I can feel his pain...

MERRION:

Perhaps we should put it out of its misery.

TEGAN:

No.

MERRION:

It would be a kindness, Tegan.

TEGAN:

If this was one of your citizens, would you put them 'out of their misery'?

MERRION:

That's not the same thing.

DOCTOR:

Isn't it? This Marshman is to be given medical attention. And he's coming with us.

MERRION:

Now, wait a minute...

DOCTOR:

He's injured and he needs help. If it convinces you, do you remember Fem had a mental connection with him at the base?

MERRION:

So?

DOCTOR:

Possibly - just possibly - we might be able to mediate with the Marshmen through him.

MERRION:

I suppose there might be something in that... But the creature will need to be restrained.

DOCTOR:

It would be wise to take precautions. Bring me some dressings. I'll treat his wounds as best I can.

MERRION:

(TO NEARBY CITIZEN) Give him your medical pack, citizen.

(FX: THE CITIZEN WALKS FORWARD TO THE DOCTOR AND HANDS OVER THE PACK.)

DOCTOR:

Thank you.

(FX: THE DOCTOR KNEELS BY THE MARSHMAN.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) Steady, old chap. This won't hurt. I hope.

MARSH LEADER:

(MOANS)

TEGAN:

Doctor - are we taking him to the TARDIS?

DOCTOR:

We're not going to the TARDIS.

TEGAN:

We're not?

DOCTOR:

The Marshmen are everywhere. We're heading for the hills.

TEGAN:

What about Nyssa and Turlough?

DOCTOR:

I haven't forgotten. We just have to hope they're safe inside the TARDIS...

55. FOREST CLEARING

SOLUS:

Let's see... An Outler, an Haragi, and two... what? You must be the Doctor's friends.

NYSSA:

You've met the Doctor? Is he safe?

SOLUS:

Didn't you hear the explosion?

TURLOUGH:

What about it?

SOLUS:

The Doctor was in it.

NYSSA:

No!

FARA:

What happened?

SOLUS:

Don't you know? After all, you caused it.

FARA:

What... ? NO! No, we've... tried to slow you down, stolen your equipment, that sort of thing, but nothing dangerous!

SOLUS:

(LAUGHS) I know you didn't do it.

FARA:

Thank you...

SOLUS:

Because I did it.

FARA:

(THIS TAKES A MOMENT TO SINK IN) What...? You did it?

SOLUS:

Drell. You can kill him now.

DRELL:

Yes.

(FX: DRELL APPROACHES FARA. DRAWS HIS BLADE FROM ITS SCABBARD.)

FARA:

What?... Drell, what are you [doing?]

NYSSA:

No! Stop!

(FX: DRELL RUNS FARA THROUGH.)

FARA:

(CRIES OUT) Why? ... Drell...? (DIES)

(FX: FARA'S BODY HITS THE GROUND.)

NYSSA:

That was murder!

SOLUS:

Yes. It was.

TURLOUGH:

Nyssa, be careful...

SOLUS:

And now, what are we going to do with you two?

56. FOREST: IN THE TREES

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE.)

MARSH LEADER:

(MOANS WEAKLY. THEN STRONGER, ANGRY CRIES, STRUGGLING WITH WRIST RESTRAINTS)

DOCTOR:

Steady now, steady. I've dressed your wounds but I'm sorry, your hands have to remain tied.

TEGAN:

I think it's the tether round his neck he objects to most. Can't say I blame him, either.

(FX: MERRION WALKS TOWARDS US.)

MERRION:

(APPROACHING) We're keeping this Marshman on a leash, injured or not. Doctor, we've been here far too long.

DOCTOR:

He's injured. Can you run up a rudimentary stretcher? Perhaps from the [branches and foliage]

MARSH LEADER:

(EFFORT OF STANDING UP)

(FX: THE MARSH LEADER STANDS.)

TEGAN:

No need, he's getting up!

MERRION:

The creature is clearly not as debilitated as its injuries suggest.

DOCTOR:

He's healing, quickly.

MARSH LEADER:

(STEADY GROWL AS HE RECOVERS FROM THE EFFORT OF STANDING)

57. FOREST CLEARING

NYSSA:

Why did you do it, Drell? Why did you kill Fara?

TURLOUGH:

Well, answer her!

DRELL:

Fara came here to die.

SOLUS:

Or rather, he was brought here to die. All this has been a long time in the planning.

TURLOUGH:

What has?

DRELL:

Our revenge.

TURLOUGH:

Revenge? For what?

MARSHMEN:

(IN THE DISTANCE, ROARS)

SOLUS:

We should move from here. You two, in the transporter. Do I have to tell you what will happen if you try to escape?

NYSSA:

No.

SOLUS:

Good. Get in.

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH OPEN A SIDE DOOR IN THE TRANSPORTER AND CLIMB IN. CONTINUES INTO:)

58. SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH ENTER AND SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER.)

TURLOUGH:

(QUIET) Whatever he says, first chance we get – we escape. He's a madman.

NYSSA:

(QUIET) Agreed. Do you think he was right, about the Doctor being in that explosion?

TURLOUGH:

(QUIET) We should hope for the best. But we also have to assume we're on our own now.

CROSS DIRECTLY TO:

59. FOREST CLEARING. [CONTINUOUS]

SOLUS:

(CALLING OFF) Enough talking, you two!

DRELL:

Solus. Is it done?

SOLUS:

She survived.

DRELL:

How?

SOLUS:

The power surge didn't reach critical as quickly as we'd hoped. I've been tracking her bio-implant. She and other survivors are in the forest, on the move. They'll be lucky to survive for long.

DRELL:

We must be sure. She must die.

SOLUS:

Oh we'll make sure, don't worry... Say, what have you got there?

(FX: DRELL LIFTS THE INTERFACE STABILISER, IT EMITS ITS TONE.)

DRELL:

Those two, they have a... ship. But not a ship. A place of science. This was in it.

SOLUS:

What a curious thing. Let me see.

(FX: SOLUS TAKES THE CRYSTAL FROM DRELL, TURNS IT OVER, CAUSING THE TONE TO SHIFT.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUOUS) It's a component of some kind. You can see the connector. Possibly a power source.

DRELL:

It is important to them.

SOLUS:

Well then, that makes it important to me. Mind if I keep it?

DRELL:

I do not want their crystal if it is a part of their science.

(FX: SOLUS POCKETS THE STABILISER.)

SOLUS:

I'll want a look at this ship of theirs in due course. For now, let's get away from here.

60. SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER [CONTINUOUS]

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) Turlough – did you see? That man Solus took the interface stabiliser!

TURLOUGH:

(SOTTO) Quiet, they're coming over.

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) We have to get it back!

61. FOOTHILLS.

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. DOCTOR, TEGAN, MERRION, FEM AND THE MARSH LEADER MOVE OUT OF THE FOREST INTO MORE OPEN, ROCKY GROUND.)

TEGAN:

The ground is starting to rise. We must be in the foothills.

MERRION:

It shouldn't take long to reach the caves.

MARSH LEADER:

(LOW ROAR)

TEGAN:

He's pretty chipper for someone who had trouble staying on his feet an hour ago.

DOCTOR:

Marshmen have remarkable powers of recovery.

FEM:

I can feel that his pain is easing.

TEGAN:

Say... what's that light over there? That blue light. See?

DOCTOR:

Oh yes.

(FX: MOVING TOWARDS A SMALL POOL OF EFFERVESCENT WATER.)

TEGAN:

It's coming from that pool. A blue glow!

(FX: THE GROUP STOPS BY THE POOL. THE DOCTOR CROUCHES DOWN BY IT, SCOOPS A HANDFUL, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

DOCTOR:

It's like the water itself is energised.

(FX: SUDDENLY, TOWARDS US, A GROUP OF LARGE SPIDERS.)

MERRION:

Spiders!

CITIZENS:

(PANICKED REACTION)

(FX: THE DOCTOR STANDS UP SMARTLY AND BACKS AWAY. THE SPIDERS CLUSTER AROUND THE POOL AND DIP THEIR PROBOSCISES IN THE WATER.)

DOCTOR:

Calm down, everyone. They're not interested in us. They appear to have come for the water.

TEGAN:

They're drinking it?

DOCTOR:

It looks that way.

MERRION:

We should move on while they're distracted.

DOCTOR:

Good idea.

(FX: THE GROUP MOVES ON.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) (MOVING AWAY) It's curious behaviour, though.

62. SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER

(FX: SOLUS POWERS DOWN THE TRANSPORTER.)

SOLUS:

Right. Let's check the tracker.

(FX: SOLUS ACTIVATES CONTROLS. A SUBTLE, REGULAR PING COMES FROM THE INSTRUMENTS.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) There she is. About two miles away, her and her group are in the foothills.

DRELL:

Those lights. That is them?

SOLUS:

The transporter can track all expedition bio-implants. Including hers.

NYSSA:

Who are you talking about?

TURLOUGH:

Nyssa, all this has nothing to do with us.

DRELL:

(TO NYSSA) The woman we have come here to kill.

SOLUS:

Decider Lana Merrion.

63. HILLSIDE: CAVE ENTRANCE

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. DOCTOR, TEGAN, FEM, MERRION, THE MARSH LEADER AND THEIR GROUP APPROACH THE ENTRANCE TO A LARGE CAVE.)

TEGAN:

That is one spooky looking cave.

MERRION:

It will give us shelter.

(FX: IN THE DISTANCE, THE CALL OF A GROUP OF MARSHMEN.)

DOCTOR:

Everyone, inside.

(FX: THE GROUP MOVES INTO THE CAVE.)

64. SOLUS'S TRANSPORTER

NYSSA:

Who is this 'Lana Merrion'?

SOLUS:

A Decider. One of the three.

NYSSA:

Why would you want to kill her?

SOLUS:

Because of Decider Decree eighteen thirty-one.

NYSSA:

What's that?

DRELL:

The death sentence for hundreds of the Haragi people.

SOLUS:

Two years ago, back home, there was a natural disaster.

TURLOUGH:

Fara mentioned a flood, I remember...

SOLUS:

Earthquakes in the Northern Zone caused a tidal wave that threatened to wipe out one of our major cities.

DRELL:

Decider Merrion invoked Decider Decree eighteen thirty-one. It was an emergency decree, which meant the votes of the other two Deciders were not needed. The decision was hers alone.

TURLOUGH:

What was this decree?

SOLUS:

It meant blocking the estuary north of our city, to divert the tidal wave.

TURLOUGH:

Did it work?

DRELL:

Oh yes. It worked.

NYSSA:

So, the city was saved?

SOLUS:

The tidal wave was diverted towards Haragi lands. Most received no warning, and were in their homes when the wall of water swept through.

DRELL:

I lost my mother and father, and my brother. I survived because I was in the city, selling food.

NYSSA:

That's terrible.

SOLUS:

My younger sister, Lareena, had married an Haragi. Many citizens like the simplicity of Haragi life. She had been married less than a year.

NYSSA:

She died?

SOLUS:

Oh yes. She died. By order of Decider Lana Merrion. The city contained thousands of citizens. She acted to protect them in favour of the Haragi.

DRELL:

(SNEERING) She is a hero to her people for what she did that day.

SOLUS:

But we are her justice. She will pay. Lana Merrion will not see another dawn.

NYSSA:

I still don't see why you needed to murder Fara.

TURLOUGH:

Don't you?

SOLUS:

Merrion sent several messages back to New Alzarius with details of the sabotage conducted by the Outler Fara. He will be the obvious and only suspect. And, conveniently, dead.

TURLOUGH:

And you?

SOLUS:

I will be the only survivor. I'll escape in the boy's ship and will be a further witness against him.

TURLOUGH:

And what about Drell?

SOLUS:

There are rumours of an Haragi working with Fara, but that's all they are. He'll leave with me on the ship, stowed away.

NYSSA:

But what if Merrion and the others survive?

DRELL:

There will be no survivors. No witnesses. We will make sure of that.

SOLUS:

And I'm afraid you two come under the heading of 'witnesses'. So you have to die too.

TURLOUGH:

Now wait a minute...

(FX: TURLOUGH STANDS. SOLUS PRODUCES A HANDGUN. IT POWERS UP.)

SOLUS:

Stay back. This gun doesn't stun, it'll put a hole in you.

(FX: TURLOUGH TAKES A STEP BACK.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) Good lad. Now, both of you – outside.

65. TUNNEL JUNCTION

(FX: TUNNEL AMBIENCE, A TALL CAVERN. DOCTOR, TEGAN AND THE REST OF THE GROUP COME ALONG THE TUNNEL, WALKING ON A DANK HARD SURFACE.)

MERRION:

Two tunnels. Which way?

FEM:

Does it matter?

DOCTOR:

It might matter a great deal. Let me see...

(FX: THE DOCTOR ENTERS ONE OF THE TUNNEL OPENINGS AND STOPS. FAINT SCUTTling SOUNDS FROM INSIDE THAT TUNNEL.)

DOCTOR:

(CONTINUED) (FROM THE SMALLER ACOUSTIC OF THE SIDE TUNNEL) No. Not in here.

(FX: THE DOCTOR RETURNS.)

TEGAN:

Why not that tunnel?

DOCTOR:

It's full of cobwebs.

TEGAN:

Spiders! Oh great.

DOCTOR:

I think they've made their home in there. We should keep moving. But this way.

TEGAN:

You don't hear me arguing.

(FX: THEY CONTINUE ON.)

66. RIVERSIDE

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. WATER LAPS AT THE RIVER'S EDGE. SOLUS, DRELL, NYSSA AND TURLOUGH APPROACH AND STOP.)

SOLUS:

Here we are. Just what I was after. Know what those are?

TURLOUGH:

Fruit of some kind?

(FX: SOLUS CROUCHES AND HEFTS A RIVERFRUIT.)

SOLUS:

They're called riverfruit. As you might expect from the name, you often find them growing in large quantities like this near water.

TURLOUGH:

We're having a picnic?

SOLUS:

I'm afraid not.

TURLOUGH:

Asked more in hope than expectation.

NYSSA:

What are you going to do with us?

SOLUS:

You're in for a surprise.

67. CAVE TUNNEL

(FX: THE GROUP WALKS DOWN THE TUNNEL AND COMES TO A HALT.)

DOCTOR:

Ah. A choice of tunnels now. Wait here while I scout ahead down the left fork.

MERRION:

I'll come with you, Doctor.

TEGAN:

Me too.

(FX: THE DOCTOR, TEGAN AND MERRION WALK OFF DOWN THE TUNNEL FORK. THE CITIZENS SETTLE THEMSELVES.)

FEM:

You can sit down.

MARSH LEADER:

(A GRUNT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT)

FEM:

I'll sit too, if that's alright?

(FX: FEM SITS NEXT TO THE MARSH LEADER.)

FEM:

(CONTINUED) (NERVOUSLY) Do you understand me? ... I don't want you to be afraid.

MARSH LEADER:

(A LOW GROWL)

FEM:

(GASPS) I feel you inside my head! (WINCES) Too much! Wait, I need to concentrate, to make sense of what you're — Oh... You are a leader?

MARSH LEADER:

(A FURTHER LOW GROWL)

FEM:

Your thoughts, your words are very clear to me now. Much more than before.

MARSH LEADER:

(GROWLS, A QUESTION)

FEM:

My speaking? I am not sure how I learned. Except by listening to them and making the sounds.

MARSH LEADER:

(TRIES TO FORM A WORD, BUT MANAGES ONLY A GUTTURAL STUTTER)

FEM:

I wish you could talk. It would be much easier.

(FX: THE MARSH LEADER STANDS.)

MARSH LEADER:

(EFFORT OF STANDING)

(FX: FEM STANDS HURRIEDLY.)

FEM:

What are you doing?

CITIZENS:

(CONCERNED HUBBUB) "What's he doing?"... "Is it safe?"... etc.

MARSH LEADER:

(ANIMATED GROWL)

(FX: THE MARSH LEADER WALKS OFF DOWN THE TUNNEL, FEM FOLLOWING BEHIND.)

FEM:

(MOVING AWAY) Wait, you can't go down there until the others come back! (CONCENTRATES, RECEIVING THE MARSH LEADER'S THOUGHTS) There is something in this tunnel? Something 'wonderful'? ... What does that mean? What's down there?

68. TUNNEL BRANCH

(FX: THE DOCTOR, MERRION AND TEGAN APPROACH AND STOP.)

DOCTOR:

There's something up ahead. A light.

TEGAN:

Shimmering. And it's that same bright blue.

MERRION:

What is it?

DOCTOR:

Some kind of natural illumination perhaps. Its source is further down the tunnel. Let's take a closer look...

(FX: THEY CONTINUE ON.)

69. RIVERSIDE

(FX: DRELL IS FINISHING STAKING DOWN NYSSA AND TURLOUGH, HAMMERING A SHORT LENGTH OF WOOD INTO THE GROUND WITH A STONE.)

DRELL:

It is done.

SOLUS:

There we are. All nice and secure. Completely helpless.

TURLOUGH:

(TESTING THE STRENGTH OF HIS RESTRAINTS) What's the big idea, staking us to the ground?

NYSSA:

I have a horrible idea I know.

SOLUS:

I'll show you. (CROUCHES DOWN) Did you notice how these riverfruits have detached from their vines? That means they're ripe.

NYSSA:

(AFRAID) Please, don't.

SOLUS:

The young lady appears to know her riverfruit.

TURLOUGH:

What do you mean?

SOLUS:

Have a listen. If I put one to your ear you should be able to hear.

(FX: SOLUS PICKS UP A RIVERFRUIT AND WALKS OVER TO TURLOUGH, CROUCHES DOWN. CLOSE ON MIC, SCRATCHING FROM INSIDE THE RIVERFRUIT.)

TURLOUGH:

Scratching? Is there something alive in there?

DRELL:

Spiders.

TURLOUGH:

Spiders?!

SOLUS:

Poisonous apparently. Possibly carnivorous.

(FX: SOLUS AND DRELL PICK UP SEVERAL RIVERFRUIT AND DROP THEM ON THE GROUND AROUND NYSSA AND TURLOUGH.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) There you are. Ten or so should do.

TURLOUGH:

(TERRIFIED) You don't need to do this.

(FX: SOLUS AND DRELL WALK AWAY.)

SOLUS:

(LEAVING) When they find your bodies, it will be assumed you were two unfortunate visitors who fell victim to Mistfall.

TURLOUGH:

Tied up?!?

NYSSA:

Solus! Come back! – Come back, Solus!

(FX: SOLUS AND DRELL KEEP WALKING.)

TURLOUGH:

(STRAINS AT HIS RESTRAINTS) Ah, Drell tied these too well, they won't budge.

NYSSA:

(ALSO STRAINING) Keep trying, Turlough. Those spiders could break out at any time.

70. POOL CAVERN

(FX: A VAST CAVERN, AT THE CENTRE OF WHICH IS A LARGE POOL. THE WATER IS SWIRLING AND BUBBLING, ENERGISED. DOCTOR, TEGAN AND MERRION ENTER.)

MERRION:

My word...

DOCTOR:

That is quite spectacular.

TEGAN:

It's like the pool we saw outside. Only much larger.

DOCTOR:

Bright blue and effervescent.

(FX: THEY APPROACH THE EDGE OF THE POOL AND STOP.)

TEGAN:

Is it just me, or is there something in the water...?

DOCTOR:

You're right. Swirling around. Points of bright blue, coalescing and detaching. It's quite hypnotic...

(FX: THE MARSH LEADER STRIDES IN AND HALTS. BEHIND HIM, FEM AND THE CITIZENS.)

MARSH LEADER:

(ENTERING) (A ROAR, ANNOUNCING HIS PRESENCE)

DOCTOR:

Well hello there. You look well. Lost your dressings I see.

MERRION:

Fem, what is he doing here?

FEM:

We followed him. We couldn't stop him. (DISTRACTED BY THE POOL) What's that?

TEGAN:

We were wondering the same thing.

(FX: FEM APPROACHES THE POOL.)

FEM:

(AWESTRUCK) The water. It makes me feel... safe. But how? Why?

MARSH LEADER:

(STRAINS TO FORM WORDS. THE GUTTURAL STUTTERS AS BEFORE. THEN
-) I. Can. Tell you.

MERRION:

He can speak!

DOCTOR:

A newly acquired skill. He's a very fast learner, this one.

FEM:

In my head, he told me he is a leader among the Marshmen.

(FX: THE MARSHMAN WALKS FORWARD.)

MERRION:

Stay back! Citizens! Hold him!

MARSH LEADER:

NO! (LASHES OUT)

(FX: CITIZENS RUSH THE MARSHMAN, HE STRIKES OUT AT THEM.)

CITIZENS:

(CRY OUT AS THEY ARE KNOCKED BACK)

MARSH LEADER:

(STILL LEARNING TO SPEAK) You. Will not. Hurt me. And I. Will not. Be. Restrained!

(FX: THE MARSH LEADER RIPS OFF HIS WRIST RESTRAINTS, AND THE TETHER AT HIS NECK.)

CITIZENS:

(REACT IN TERROR)

MARSH LEADER:

(SPEECH BECOMING EASIER FOR HIM) You asked. What this place is. It is. The heart of Alzarius.

DOCTOR:

What does that mean?

MARSH LEADER:

And it is protected. By me. And by my people. See!

(FX: LARGE NUMBERS OF MARSHMEN EMERGE FROM THE SIDE TUNNELS, ON EVERY SIDE, GRUNTING AND CALLING AS THEY DO.)

MARSHMAN:

(GRUNTING AND GROWLING, CONTEMPTUOUS AND THREATENING, CONTINUING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING)

MERRION:
Marshmen!

TEGAN:
Dozens of them!

(FX: THE MARSHMEN COME CLOSER.)

DOCTOR:
Everyone, stay calm. Don't panic.

MERRION:
They're all around us!

TEGAN:
Yeah, and this time there's nowhere to run!

(FX: THE MARSHMEN COME STILL CLOSER.)

71. RIVERSIDE

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH STRUGGLING WITH THEIR WRIST RESTRAINTS.)

NYSSA:

Ah! Turlough, I think this tie is starting to loosen. I can move my wrist.

TURLOUGH:

I'm getting nowhere. Perhaps if I —

(FX: A RIVERFRUIT CRACKS OPEN AND A SPIDER SCUTTLES OUT.)

NYSSA:

Turlough, the riverfruit! The spiders are hatching out!

(FX: SEVERAL OTHER RIVERFRUIT ALSO HATCH, AND SPIDERS EMERGE. THEY CLICK-CLACK IN OUR DIRECTION.)

TURLOUGH:

I can't see from here. How many?

NYSSA:

Four, maybe five.

TURLOUGH:

Can you get your hand free?!

NYSSA:

(PULLING FRANTICALLY) No. No, it isn't loose enough. (CRIES OUT) They're on my legs!

TURLOUGH:

(PULLING AT RESTRAINTS) We have to get free! ... (DISGUST) They're on me now! On my chest! (TWISTS AND TURNS, TO NO AVAIL)

NYSSA:

Turlough...!

(FX: SEVERAL SPIDERS VERY CLOSE, CLICK-CLACKING, CRAWLING TOWARDS US.)

END OF PART THREE

PART FOUR

OPENING TITLES

REPRISE:

TURLOUGH:

*(PULLING AT RESTRAINTS) We have to get free! ... (DISGUST)
They're on me now! On my chest! (TWISTS AND TURNS, TO NO
AVAIL)*

NYSSA:

Turlough...!

*(FX: SEVERAL SPIDERS VERY CLOSE, CLICK-CLACKING, CRAWLING
TOWARDS US.)*

CONTINUES INTO:

72. RIVERSIDE [CONTINUOUS]

NYSSA:

*... Turlough, concentrate! We need to keep still. Absolutely
still.*

TURLOUGH:

I don't know if I can.

NYSSA:

We have to try!

(FX: SPIDERS CONTINUE TO MOVE OVER THEM.)

73. POOL CAVERN.

(FX: MARSHMEN, UTTERING LOW GROWLS, ALL AROUND.)

TEGAN:

They're all around us!

DOCTOR:

Well, try not to provoke them.

MARSH LEADER:

Good advice, Doctor.

DOCTOR:

Marshman. Please, don't harm these people.

MARSH LEADER:

They took me as their prisoner. As their... experiment.

MERRION:

Not to harm you! To learn more about you.

MARSH LEADER:

You would have left me in that cage. Left me to burn.

MERRION:

I'm... sorry.

MARSH LEADER:

Maybe we should burn you. You and your people.

FEM:

No! — These are good people.

MARSH LEADER:

They are enemies of Alzarius.

FEM:

They come from Alzarius!

MARSH LEADER:

They have long since turned away from their true nature. But it would be fitting if they were to die here, in the heart of Alzarius.

DOCTOR:

Fitting? Why?

MARSH LEADER:

(CONSIDERS RESPONSE, THEN:) Fem? Come here.

(FX: FEM JOINS THEM.)

FEM:

Yes?

MARSH LEADER:

I do not yet have the words to explain. Perhaps you do. Reach into my mind, can you see my meaning?

FEM:

I... I think so. (SUDDEN MENTAL CONTACT) Yes, I see. I see the world of Alzarius, and this place at its heart. They call it the Pool of Life.

MARSH LEADER:

Speak of it. Use your language.

DOCTOR:

Fem?

FEM:

(TURNING CONCEPTS INTO A LUCID DESCRIPTION) The blue elements in the water are energised minerals, expelled by the crust of Alzarius. They infuse the water with life-enhancing properties. The water in turn permeates the soil and the vegetation. The waters are ingested by the Marshmen and by all the creatures of Alzarius. Life on Alzarius is linked, through the properties of this mineral.

TEGAN:

That's incredible.

DOCTOR:

A fully integrated eco-system. When I was here before I found that the Marshmen, citizens and the spiders all shared the same DNA. This is why. They have the DNA of the planet.

FEM:

The minerals become energised during Mistfall. All life that follows the Mistfall cycle needs this to flourish.

MARSH LEADER:

And we protect it, so that nature can prosper. We will not allow outsiders to endanger it again.

DOCTOR:

Again?

MARSH LEADER:

We were once visited by a great catastrophe.

DOCTOR:

What catastrophe?

(BEAT.)

MARSH LEADER:

I will show you. Come with me. (CALLS) Bring their leader.

(FX: MARSH LEADER MOVES AWAY. TWO MARSHMEN SHEPHERD MERRION IN THE SAME DIRECTION.)

MARSHMEN:

(COERCIVE GROWLS)

MERRION:

Where are you taking us?!

DOCTOR:

Decider, we have no choice. And I for one want to see what he has to show us.

(FX: MARSH LEADER LEADS THE WAY UP THE SIDE TUNNEL, FOLLOWED BY DOCTOR, MERRION, AND TWO MARSHMEN.)

TEGAN:

So. Are any more of you able to speak?

MARSHMAN:

(ANGRY ROAR)

TEGAN:

Pardon me for asking.

74. RIVERSIDE.

(FX: SPIDERS CRAWL OVER TURLOUGH AND NYSSA.)

TURLOUGH:

(STIFLED CRY)

NYSSA:

Be still, Turlough.

(FX: TWO SPIDERS MOVE OFF NYSSA.)

NYSSA:

See, they've lost interest in me.

TURLOUGH:

(GRITTED TEETH) Lucky you. I've still got two of them on me.

(FX: NYSSA TWISTS AT WRIST RESTRAINT.)

NYSSA:

The loop around my wrist is definitely getting looser. If I give it another pull... Yes!

(FX: NYSSA'S HAND COMES FREE. SHE IMMEDIATELY STARTS UNTYING OTHER WRIST.)

TURLOUGH:

Can you get your other hand free?

NYSSA:

(UNTIES OTHER WRIST) Yes. - It's the ties around my ankles are the problem.

(FX: NYSSA PULLS AT ANKLE RESTRAINTS.)

TURLOUGH:

Quickly, Nyssa!

NYSSA:

That's it, I'm free!

TURLOUGH:

Get them off me!!

NYSSA:

Wait, I don't want them to bite me. I'll use one of these stakes.

(FX: NYSSA SWIPES SPIDERS OFF TURLOUGH.)

TURLOUGH:

Careful!

(FX: SPIDERS LAND ON THE GROUND AND SCUTTLE BACK TOWARDS US.)

NYSSA:

I think they're angry. Can you make spiders angry?

TURLOUGH:

Just hurry it up, will you?!

75. FARA'S SHIP.

(FX: DOOR OPENS, SOLUS AND DRELL ENTER.)

DRELL:

(ENTERING) This is the boy Fara's ship.

SOLUS:

(ENTERING) I was hoping for something a bit classier. Still, it looks solid enough.

(FX: SOLUS OPERATES CONTROLS. ENGINES POWER UP, TICKING OVER.)

SOLUS:

Plenty of fuel. Good.

(FX: OPERATES ANOTHER CONTROL; ENGINES POWER DOWN.)

DRELL:

We should finish our business, with the Decider.

SOLUS:

Alright. We'll leave the transporter here – we need to move quietly. We'll take a portable bio-implant tracker with us.

DRELL:

We will walk in the mist?

DRELL:

Two of us should be able to avoid the Marshmen. And if we don't, well, I'll have the firepower to deal with them.

76. MOLTEN CAVERN.

(FX: SIMILAR TO POOL CAVERN. WATER DRIPS INTO A POOL HERE, BUT WATER IS OTHERWISE STILL, INERT. MELANCHOLY WIND BLOWS THROUGH PART OF HIGH CEILING THAT'S OPEN TO THE SKY. MARSH LEADER LEADS IN DOCTOR, MERRION, AND THE TWO MARSHMEN.)

MARSH LEADER:

(ENTERING) Here.

MERRION:

(ENTERING) Another cavern?

DOCTOR:

(ENTERING) There's a pool here, too, but it's inert. Still water.

MERRION:

There's something wrong with the walls.

DOCTOR:

You're right.

(FX: DOCTOR WALKS UP TO CAVERN WALL, RUNS HAND OVER ROCK.)

DOCTOR:

They look like they've melted. Which would need a phenomenal temperature, at least a thousand degrees.

MARSH LEADER:

Here there was once a Pool of Life also. It was made dead by the people of the machines.

MERRION:

The people of the machines?

MARSH LEADER:

Centuries ago.

DOCTOR:

You mean the crew of the Starliner, don't you? They did this?

77. FOREST.

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. NYSSA AND TURLOUGH RUN UP.)

TURLOUGH:

I think we've lost the spiders. At last.

NYSSA:

I've never known you run so fast.

TURLOUGH:

Where are we? — Oh, we'll never find the TARDIS in this mist!

(FX: IN MIDDLE DISTANCE, SOUNDS OF MOVEMENT THROUGH FOREST.)

NYSSA:

Someone's coming. Get down!

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH GO TO GROUND. DRELL AND SOLUS PASS BY. SOLUS HAS HANDHELD TRACKER THAT EMITS LOW BEEP.)

SOLUS:

(OFF) There's some interference in the tracker signal. They might have found shelter.

DRELL:

(OFF) How far?

SOLUS:

(OFF) Maybe twenty minutes' walk.

(FX: THEY WALK ON. NYSSA AND TURLOUGH STAND.)

NYSSA:

Drell and Solus. We should go after them.

TURLOUGH:

Why?

NYSSA:

They mean to kill this Decider person, remember.

TURLOUGH:

Is that any of our business?

NYSSA:

It's what the Doctor would do. Come on.

TURLOUGH:

(RESIGNED SIGH)

(FX: THEY MOVE AFTER DRELL AND SOLUS.)

78. MOLTEN CAVERN.

MERRION:

What do you mean, the Starliner crew did this... ?

DOCTOR:

Look at the roof of the cavern. It's open to the sky.

MERRION:

I see that. So?

DOCTOR:

That's not a natural opening. Look closer – the rock around the edge is melted.

MERRION:

What does that mean?

DOCTOR:

I'll tell you what I think it means.

(FX: FLASHBACK, BEHIND THE DOCTOR'S WORDS. STARLINER FROM TERRADON PLUMMETING THROUGH ATMOSPHERE, ENGINES SCREAMING.)

DOCTOR:

(V/O) It would have happened when the Starliner crashed, all those thousands of years ago. The ship had suffered a critical systems failure, and was falling towards the surface of Alzarius.

(FX: FLASHBACK. A SECTION OF THE STARLINER DETACHES, IN FLAMES, AND FALLS AWAY.)

DOCTOR:

(V/O) Imagine, a damaged engine power cell. It becomes super-heated. Possibly the Starliner crew eject it, possibly it detaches, but it falls towards the surface. The Starliner crashes in the valley...

(FX: FLASHBACK. STARLINER LANDS HOT AND HEAVY ON THE FOREST, A HUGE IMPACT, TEARING THROUGH A LARGE TRACT OF LAND BEFORE COMING TO A HALT.)

DOCTOR:

(V/O) ... but the power cell lands on the hillside above us. So hot that it melts a hole through into this cavern. Where it explodes, a white hot mass.

(FX: FLASHBACK. FALLING POWER CELL DROPS INTO CAVERN, HITTING THE WATER. ERUPTION OF STEAM, THEN BLAST OF WHITE HOT POWER.)

MARSH LEADER:

It was a time of Mistfall, as you call it. Many of our people were here, in this chamber.

DOCTOR:

I'm sorry.

MARSH LEADER:

They died. And the soil was poisoned.

79. HILLSIDE: CAVE ENTRANCE.

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. SOLUS AND DRELL APPROACH CAVE ENTRANCE AND HALT. TRACKER BEEPING AT A FASTER RATE THAN BEFORE.)

SOLUS:

She's gone into these caves. That's a clever move.

DRELL:

Is it safe?

SOLUS:

Nothing's safe on this world. Come on.

(FX: THEY ENTER CAVE. BEAT. NYSSA AND TURLOUGH PART UNDERGROWTH BEHIND.)

TURLOUGH:

We're not going to follow them in there, are we?

NYSSA:

Where they go, we follow.

(FX: THEY FOLLOW.)

80. MOLTEN CAVERN.

DOCTOR:

Marsh Leader – what happened here all those years ago was an accident.

MERRION:

A terrible accident.

MARSH LEADER:

You people who make machines, you destroy nature. You should not have come to our world!

MERRION:

If you want us to go, we will go.

MARSH LEADER:

And what if I want you to die? Will you die?

TWO MARSHMEN:

(RESONATING ROAR OF APPROVAL)

CROSS TO:

81. TUNNEL. [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: MARSHMEN'S ROAR RESONATES DOWN NARROW ROCK-WALLED SPACE AS DRELL AND SOLUS APPROACH, TRACKER NOW BEEPING AT A VERY QUICK RATE.)

DRELL:

(STOPPING) Marshmen!

SOLUS:

Just ahead. The tracker says Merrion is there too.

(FX: TURNS OFF TRACKER AND POCKETS IT.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) If she's alive I've got an idea how to play this. Drell - I need you to go back to the entrance and wait.

DRELL:

Why?

SOLUS:

Because for what I have in mind, you can't be around. But I'll bring her to you. Be ready.

82. DEAD END TUNNEL.

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH COME TO STOP.)

TURLOUGH:

Oh, great. A dead end!

NYSSA:

Then let's go back. Drell and Solus must have taken another route.

TURLOUGH:

(MOVING AWAY) Oh yes. Let's keep trying to find the killers with the gun...

(FX: THEY MOVE AWAY, BACK UP THE TUNNEL.)

83. MOLTEN CAVERN.

2 X MARSHMEN:

(MENACING)

DOCTOR:

Please, Marsh Leader. You are an intelligent being. Don't behave like the monster so many people mistake you for.

MARSH LEADER:

I will play the monster if it keeps my people and my world safe. — But for now, we return to the Pool of Life. There your fate will be decided. Come.

TWO MARSHMEN:

(GROWL, CAJOLING)

MERRION:

Alright, alright.

DOCTOR:

(ASIDE) Chin up, Decider. I think he's mellowing.

(FX: THEY HEAD FOR THE EXIT. SUDDENLY — SOLUS'S BLASTER FIRES.)

FIRST MARSHMAN:

(CRIES OUT, FALLS DEAD.)

MARSH LEADER:

No!

MERRION:

What the...?

SOLUS:

(OFF, STEPPING INTO CAVERN) Get back, you animals!

MERRION:

Solus. Thank goodness!

DOCTOR:

There was no reason to kill that Marshman!

SOLUS:

Stay absolutely still! — I trust these creatures are intelligent enough to understand that?

MARSH LEADER:

We understand.

84. POOL CAVERN.

TEGAN:

I'm telling you, I heard a shot.

FEM:

(PAINED) A Marshman has died... I can feel it.

MARSHMEN:

(ANGRY GROWLS)

TEGAN:

Steady, boys. It wasn't us!

85. MOLTEN CAVERN.

SOLUS:

(SURPRISED) This Marshman can talk?

DOCTOR:

Super-evolutionary development.

MARSH LEADER:

I am my peoples' leader.

MERRION:

Thank goodness you found us, Solus. There are others here. Citizens, and Fem. They're prisoners of the Marshmen.

SOLUS:

We'll worry about them later. Let's get you to safety first, Decider. (FX: SOLUS BACKS TOWARDS EXIT, TAKING MERRION WITH HIM.) This way.

DOCTOR:

Decider. Lana, please! There's an opportunity here. Live up to your name and decide, no more violence. Let's talk, not shoot, our way out of this.

MERRION:

I can't take that risk.

DOCTOR:

Stay! Make the brave choice. Be a leader.

MERRION:

Solus, get me away from here.

SOLUS:

Gladly.

(FX: LARGE GROUP OF MARSHMEN APPROACH AT THE RUN FROM DIRECTION OF POOL OF LIFE.)

MARSHMEN:

(CHARGING, ROARING)

SOLUS:

Marshmen, coming down the other tunnel! Run!

MERRION:

(MOVING AWAY) Goodbye, Doctor!

DOCTOR:

Decider!

(FX: SOLUS AND MERRION LEAVE AT THE RUN. GROUP OF MARSHMEN RUN IN FROM OPPOSITE TUNNEL, DRAGGING TEGAN AND FEM WITH THEM.)

MARSHMEN:
(GROWLING)

TEGAN:
(ENTERING) Okay, okay, no need to be so rough!

DOCTOR:
Tegan! Thank goodness.

FEM:
(ENTERING) Doctor! Where is Decider Merrion?

DOCTOR:
She's gone.

(FX: MARSHMEN GROUP AROUND THEM.)

MARSH LEADER:
You could have run, Doctor. You chose to stay. You are most brave.

DOCTOR:
Thank you.

MARSH LEADER:
Or most foolish.

MARSHMEN:
(THREATENING GROWLS)

86. TUNNEL.

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH APPROACH AND STOP.)

TURLOUGH:

Well, which way now?

NYSSA:

Let's take the [left-hand]

(FX: MERRION AND SOLUS RUNNING TOWARDS US FROM WAY OFF.)

TURLOUGH:

Wait! Listen. Someone's coming!

NYSSA:

There's a fissure in the rock here. Come on, we can get out of sight.

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH STEP INTO ROCK FISSURE. MERRION AND SOLUS RUN TO HALT. SOLUS SHUCKS OFF HIS BACKPACK.)

MERRION:

(PUFFED OUT) Why are you stopping? Solus?

SOLUS:

(PUFFED OUT) I'm going to leave them a little something from my backpack.

(FX: SOLUS DROPS PACK ON GROUND. OPENS POUCH. REMOVES AN OBJECT. PLACES IT AGAINST WALL. PUNCHES SEQUENCE ON KEYPAD.)

SOLUS:

An explosive charge. Enough to bring down the roof here and block this tunnel.

MERRION:

Our citizens are back there. And the Doctor and his friend.

SOLUS:

No hope for them now. We have to keep those Marshmen back.

MERRION:

No, deactivate that device.

(FX: SOLUS PUSHES FINAL BUTTON. A TONE STARTS TO BUILD IN PITCH, CONTINUING BEHIND:)

SOLUS:

Sorry, Decider. It's decided. Run!

(FX: SOLUS RUNS, TAKING MERRION WITH HIM.)

MERRION:

(ANGRY) Solus, you'll answer for this!

(BEAT)

(FX: NYSSA AND TURLOUGH EMERGE FROM FISSURE.)

TURLOUGH:

We need to get out of here.

NYSSA:

He called her Decider. She must be the woman he's going to kill.

TURLOUGH:

Hello? Bomb?

NYSSA:

They said the Doctor and Tegan are back there. Turlough, you have to warn them.

TURLOUGH:

Me? Where will you be?

NYSSA:

I'll go after those two. — You get to the Doctor!

(FX: NYSSA RUNS OFF IN DIRECTION TAKEN BY SOLUS AND MERRION.)

TURLOUGH:

Nyssa! (EXASPERATED) Oh, alright!

(FX: TURLOUGH RUNS OFF BACK DOWN THE TUNNEL. CROSS TO:)

87. TUNNEL (FURTHER DOWN).

(FX: DOCTOR, TEGAN, FEM AND CITIZENS LED ALONG TUNNEL.)

MARSHMEN:

(THREATENING GROWLS)

TEGAN:

Where are you taking us?

MARSH LEADER:

We will find the one who took the woman, your Decider. Then all your fates will be decided.

DOCTOR:

Leader, you should speak with Fem. She's spent years with these people, lived among them.

TEGAN:

They're not evil. They think a lot of you. You're their ancestors.

FEM:

It's true, Marsh Leader. They want to understand us better.

(FX: TURLOUGH COMES SPRINTING TOWARDS THEM TO A HALT.)

TURLOUGH:

(RUNNING UP) Doctor?! Tegan!

DOCTOR:

Turlough? Where have you – [come from]?

TURLOUGH:

There's a bomb!

TEGAN:

A what?!

TURLOUGH:

Everybody GET DOWN!!

TEGAN:

You heard him! Everyone!!

(FX: ALL DROP TO FLOOR. SOME DISTANCE DOWN THE TUNNEL SYSTEM, SOLUS'S BOMB EXPLODES. WALLS AND ROOF OF SHAKE. FURTHER DOWN, TOWARDS THE SEAT OF THE EXPLOSION, THERE'S A CAVE-IN. PRESSURE WAVE RUSHES TOWARDS US, THEN PASSES.)

DOCTOR:

(GETTING UP) I think it's clear.

MARSHMEN/CITIZENS:

(MOANING, DAZED, AS THEY GET UP)

DOCTOR:

A timely warning, Turlough. Thank you.

TURLOUGH:

The explosion blocked the tunnel, though.

TEGAN:

Where's Nyssa?

TURLOUGH:

The other side of the explosion. She should be safe. There was a man, Solus...

DOCTOR:

Yes, he rescued the Decider.

TURLOUGH:

Not rescued. He plans to kill her.

TEGAN:

He what?!

TURLOUGH:

He blames her for killing his sister and hundreds of others on their home world, in a flood.

FEM:

The tidal wave?

DOCTOR:

We have to get to her. Leader?

MARSH LEADER:

Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Can we agree to work together? That explosion targeted Marshmen and New Alzarians alike.

MARSH LEADER:

(REFLECTS, THEN:) Agreed.

DOCTOR:

Is there another way out of here?

MARSH LEADER:

On this level, that is the only way out.

TURLOUGH:

We could clear the cave-in, but it would be dangerous.

DOCTOR:

We'll have to try. If only there was another - (SUDDEN IDEA)
Wait a minute. You remember the pools of the blue water we
found out on the hillside?

TEGAN:

Of course.

DOCTOR:

Those pools... and the larger pools in the chambers here ... Yes.
Come with me.

(FX: DOCTOR HURRIES OFF BACK DOWN THE TUNNEL, OTHERS
FOLLOWING.)

88. ANOTHER TUNNEL.

(FX: SOLUS AND MERRION RUNNING)

MERRION:

Solus, we can't just leave them! — Solus!

SOLUS:

Never mind that now! Move!

89. POOL CAVERN.

(FX: FADE UP. EFFERVESCENT POOL.)

FEM:

Turlough has been in the water for a long time.

TEGAN:

Yeah, someone should go after him.

DOCTOR:

Turlough's a strong swimmer. There has to be a way through from the Pool of Life, the blue water we saw outside proves it.

TEGAN:

You hope.

(FX: TURLOUGH SURFACES FROM POOL.)

FEM:

He has returned!

DOCTOR:

Turlough. — What did you find?

TURLOUGH:

(TREADING WATER, RECOVERING) There is an opening, a channel of some sort, down there. Wide enough to swim through. Who knows where it leads?

DOCTOR:

There's one way to find out. If you feel up to it.

TEGAN:

You're being volunteered, Turlough.

TURLOUGH:

I meant, a Marshman!

TEGAN:

They've got gills.

TURLOUGH:

So?

TEGAN:

We don't. The Alzarians don't.

DOCTOR:

Tegan's right, we need to know if there's any way through for non-Marsh dwellers.

TURLOUGH:

(RESIGNED) Better than staying here I suppose.

DOCTOR:

Good man.

MARSH LEADER:

Some of my people will go with you.

FEM:

And me. I'm half-Marsh creature, Doctor. I'm good in the water.

DOCTOR:

Alright. The rest of us will try to clear a way through the cave-in. (HEADS OFF)

TEGAN:

Good luck, Turlough. (FOLLOWS DOCTOR)

TURLOUGH:

(MORE TO SELF) See you on the outside. I hope.

(FX: FEM AND 2 x MARSHMEN JUMP INTO WATER.)

FEM:

(IN WATER) Turlough? Are you ready?

TURLOUGH:

As I'll ever be. (TAKES A DEEP BREATH. ALL x 4 SUBMERGE)

CROSS TO:

90. CAVE-IN TUNNEL.

(FX: DOCTOR AND TEGAN APPROACH CAVE-IN, WALKING OVER RUBBLE. MARSH LEADER, MARSHMEN AND CITIZENS JOIN THEM.)

DOCTOR:

You citizens – try to move the rocks at the top first.

TEGAN:

That lot? They're fit only to drop!

MARSH LEADER:

We will work... together.

TEGAN:

(CLIMBING UP ROCKS) Don't all go clambering over the pile. Form a line, pass the rocks back.

(FX: MARSHMEN AND CITIZENS ARRANGE THEMSELVES.)

TEGAN:

Ready? – Here we go. (EFFORT OF HEAVING ROCK)

91. CAVE.

(FX: SOLUS AND MERRION ENTER AND STOP.)

SOLUS:

Here we are. This cave leads out to the hillside.

MERRION:

We have to get to your transporter. We can use it to go back and rescue our people.

DRELL:

(STEPS FORWARD FROM OFF) No.

MERRION:

(SURPRISED) Who-? An Haragi? What are you doing here?

(FX: DRELL DRAWS BLADE FROM SCABBARD.)

DRELL:

I'm here to take your life.

MERRION:

Solus!

(FX: SOLUS DRAWS GUN, POWERS IT UP.)

SOLUS:

Don't move, Decider.

MERRION:

What-? He's the one with the knife, you're pointing the gun in the wrong direction!

SOLUS:

Tell me: does Decider Decree eighteen thirty-one mean anything to you, at all?

MERRION:

Decider Decree...? – Oh no.

DRELL:

Yes. This is justice for all those you killed.

SOLUS:

My sister, and Drell's family.

MERRION:

But you can't-!

SOLUS:

I'm not going to. We've agreed that Drell will have the privilege of ending your life. Any last words, Decider?

92. CAVE-IN TUNNEL.

(FX: DIG-OUT CONTINUES, ROCKS BEING LIFTED AND PASSED BACK.)

MARSHMEN/CITIZENS:

(WORKING TOGETHER ON LINE, GRUNTING WITH EFFORT.)

TEGAN:

(PAUSING) I can see the way through!

DOCTOR:

(CALLING DOWN) Not much longer, Marsh Leader!

TEGAN:

I reckon I can squeeze through to the other side.. (DIVES INTO HOLE)

DOCTOR:

Tegan, no. We need to secure the opening first. –

(FX: TUNNEL ROOF CREAKS OMINOUSLY.)

MARSH LEADER:

Doctor! The roof is giving way!

DOCTOR:

Tegan! Tegan, get back! – Oh, what's the use. (DIVES INTO HOLE)

(FX: ROOF SAGS, CRACKS)

MARSH LEADER:

You others, get back!

MARSHMEN/CITIZENS:

(CRY WITH ALARM AS...)

(FX: ROOF CAVES IN. ROCKS RAINING DOWN. CAVE-IN SETTLES.)

MARSH LEADER:

Doctor...? Tegan...?

(FX: CROSS TO DOCTOR AND TEGAN TRAPPED IN TIGHT, ROCK-ENCLOSED SPACE.)

DOCTOR:

(STRAINING, PULLING HIMSELF THROUGH) Tegan, are you alright?

TEGAN:

A few cuts and bruises, nothing broken. You?

DOCTOR:

Same. (CALLS) Leader, can you hear me?!

MARSH LEADER:

(THROUGH WALL OF ROCKS) Yes, Doctor. None of us is harmed. But we are cut off from you.

DOCTOR:

(CALLS) The roof caved in ahead of us too. We're trapped in here.

(FX: SCRABBLING BEHIND ROCKS IN FRONT OF THEM...)

TEGAN:

What's that noise?

(FX: THEN A HEAP OF ROCKS FALLS AWAY TO MAKE AN OPENING. NYSSA CRAWLS FORWARD.)

NYSSA:

Thank goodness you're alright!

DOCTOR AND TEGAN:

Nyssa!

NYSSA:

Let me help you through.

(FX: DOCTOR AND TEGAN SCRAMBLE OUT INTO TUNNEL BEYOND THROUGH:)

TEGAN:

What are you doing here?

NYSSA:

I was going after this man Solus —

TEGAN:

Yeah, we met him.

NYSSA:

I lost them in the tunnels, so I came back to see if I could find a way past the cave-in.

DOCTOR:

Well, we're very glad you did!

(FX: ALL ON FLOOR OF TUNNEL NOW.)

NYSSA:

Doctor — Solus has a woman with him. A Decider.

DOCTOR:

Yes, he means to kill her. We need to hurry. Come on!

(FX: ALL RUN OFF.)

93. FOREST: THE POOLS.

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. BY EFFERVESCENT POOL. TURLOUGH BURSTS FROM WATER, EAGER FOR AIR.)

TURLOUGH:

(DEEP, GRATEFUL BREATHS) That was close. (TREADS WATER AS...)

(FX: FEM, THEN THE TWO MARSHMEN, ALSO SURFACE.)

FEM:

(RECOVERING HER BREATH) Turlough! You survived.

TURLOUGH:

Apparently so. What now?

FEM:

We go back up the hillside. Back to the caves.

TURLOUGH:

Marvellous. (EFFORT AS:)

(FX: ALL BEGIN CLIMBING OUT.)

94. CAVE.

DRELL:

You murdered my people! You murdered my family!

MERRION:

That's not how it was!

SOLUS:

Tell that to my dead sister, Decider.

MERRION

I regret those deaths, of course I do. But more than fifty thousand people – Citizens and Haragi – would have died if the tidal wave had not been redirected.

SOLUS:

Into the valley. Eight hundred people. Their blood on your hands.

MERRION

We mobilised as fast as we could to evacuate the settlements. Where we – where I – miscalculated was how difficult it would be to communicate the evacuation warning to the Haragi. It was a tragedy.

SOLUS:

So you tried to protect yourself, to keep the Decree secret. But people will talk...!

MERRION:

It was decided that the people did not need to know, for the sake of both our communities.

DRELL:

By you and the other Deciders!

MERRION:

By the Haragi High Council.

DRELL:

What?

MERRION:

I met with the Haragi leaders as soon as I could after the tragedy. I explained what I had done and why. I offered myself up to Haragi justice, for them to try me and sentence me as they wished.

DRELL:

You are lying.

MERRION:

The Haragi Council declined. They understood the reasons for my decision, even if they didn't agree with it. Then they proposed that the facts should be withheld from the public record.

SOLUS:

Why?

MERRION:

Because it was done and could not be undone. And because there would be many who would not understand, through their grieving.

DRELL:

A deception. Sanctioned even by my own people.

MERRION:

Refusing to divert the flood would have resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands. Doing nothing would have been as positive an act of killing as making the decision to block that estuary.

SOLUS:

Enough talking. You've made your final decision, Decider!

DOCTOR:

(STEPPING IN FROM OFF) No. Like I said to the Decider earlier – let's talk our way out of this.

SOLUS:

Doctor! – Oh, and his friends, too.

TEGAN:

(FOLLOWING DOCTOR IN) We heard everything, Solus.

NYSSA:

Please, stop this before it's too late.

SOLUS:

It was too late long ago!

DOCTOR:

Solus. You were responsible for blowing up the base, of course? And sabotaging the water tank? Waking the Marshmen?

MERRION:

For the spider in my locker?

TEGAN:

Yeah, that nearly killed me.

DOCTOR:

I realised those acts of sabotage had to be the work of someone on the inside. When all this is investigated, others will realise the same.

SOLUS:

All they'll know will be the reports they've already received about Outler sabotage, and that the base was destroyed.

DOCTOR:

Was it always your intention to kill everyone in the expedition?

SOLUS:

Of course.

TEGAN:

To cover your tracks?

SOLUS:

The Decider's death alone would make her a martyr. The loss of her expedition and almost everyone on it would make her the leader of a mission that ended in a catastrophic failure. She would die with ignominy.

DRELL:

With these deaths, her people will feel pain such as the Haragi have endured.

NYSSA:

You really think you can get away with it?

SOLUS:

I'm getting away in Fara's ship. The rescue party will find me drifting a few light years from here.

NYSSA:

What about Drell?

SOLUS:

He will also be on Fara's ship.

NYSSA:

But if the rescuers see him, won't that give the game away? He's not part of the expedition.

DRELL:

There is a storage compartment in the craft. I will be concealed there.

DOCTOR:

Is that what he told you?

NYSSA:

It's hardly practical.

SOLUS:

Shut up.

DOCTOR:

That ship belongs to the man you'll say murdered all those people. When it's picked up it will be examined for evidence. Every inch of it.

TEGAN:

You need to think that through, Drell. Does that really sound realistic? Solus won't be taking you anywhere.

DRELL:

Solus...?

SOLUS:

Don't listen to them.

DRELL:

(ANGRY) You said I would be safe. Did you intend to leave me here?

SOLUS:

After a fashion.

(FX: SOLUS FIRES GUN, HITTING DRELL — WHO COLLAPSES ON THE GROUND, DROPPING HIS BLADE.)

DRELL:

(CRIES OUT, DIES.)

TEGAN:

You maniac, you've killed him! — What did you do that for?!

SOLUS:

Your Doctor's right, he'd have been a liability. Dead, he's another useful suspect in the death of the Decider.

95. HILLSIDE: CAVE EXTERIOR.

(FX: MISTFALL AMBIENCE. TURLOUGH, FEM AND 2 x MARSHMEN ARE APPROACHING THE CAVE.)

TURLOUGH:

Did you hear that? It sounded like a shot!

FEM:

It came from the cave! Come on!

(FX: THEY HURRY UP TOWARDS CAVE MOUTH.)

96. CAVE INTERIOR.

SOLUS

Alright, everyone, up against the cave wall.

NYSSA:

You're going to kill us too?

TEGAN:

He's getting rid of more witnesses.

SOLUS:

Correct.

MERRION:

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry —

DOCTOR:

(TO SOLUS) What about the citizens in the tunnels? They'll get out eventually. They'll be working with the Marshmen to free themselves.

SOLUS:

How enterprising of them. Won't help, though.

TEGAN:

Why not?

(FX: SOLUS HEFTS HIS BACKPACK.)

SOLUS:

There are plenty more explosive charges in this bag. Enough to seal off every exit in these tunnels permanently. Now...

(FX: SOLUS POWERS UP HIS GUN READY TO FIRE.)

SOLUS:

It's time for you to die.

MERRION:

Do it, then. Do it, Solus!

SOLUS:

I'm not going to kill you first, Decider. I'm going to make you watch as I kill all these others.

MERRION:

But they're innocent!

SOLUS:

Exactly. I want you to die wallowing in their blood.

(FX: TURLOUGH, FEM AND MARSHMEN RUN IN FROM THE HILLSIDE.)

FEM:

(RUNNING IN) Marshmen – stop him! Attack!

2 x MARSHMEN:

(ROAR IN ANGER AND CHARGE AT SOLUS)

SOLUS:

(SHOCKED) Marshmen?!

(FX: SOLUS FIRES, HITTING ROCK.)

SOLUS:

Stay back! I said, stay [back!]

2 x MARSHMEN:

(ROAR AS THEY PHYSICALLY ATTACK SOLUS)

(FX: SOLUS'S GUN DROPS TO THE FLOOR.)

SOLUS:

(BEING BEATEN) No! NO!! Aaargh!!!

TURLOUGH:

(RUNNING IN) Doctor, Tegan, Nyssa – are you [alright?]

DOCTOR:

Never mind us. (STEPPING FORWARD) Marshmen! Stop! Please, stop!

MARSHMEN:

(ANGRILY PROTEST AT BEING STOPPED)

FEM:

He's disarmed. You've done enough.

MARSHMEN:

(RELUCTANTLY, THEY RELENT AND CALM DOWN)

DOCTOR:

Thank you.

SOLUS:

(MOANS IN PAIN)

TEGAN:

You'll live.

MERRION:

He was going to kill you. All of you.

(FX: TURLOUGH PICKS UP GUN.)

TURLOUGH:

Here, I've got the gun.

NYSSA:

Careful with that, Turlough.

TURLOUGH:

I know how to handle a gun, Nyssa.

NYSSA:

What I mean is, it's still fully [charged]

(FX: GUN DISCHARGES, HITTING THE FLOOR.)

MARSHMEN:

(REACT, STARTLED ROARS, TO THE GUN GOING OFF)

TEGAN:

Turlough, you drongo!

TURLOUGH:

Sorry. Sorry!!!

(FX: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DISTRACTION, SOLUS RUNS INTO THE TUNNELS – HASTY FOOTSTEPS)

MERRION:

Solus is getting away!

TEGAN:

See what you've done now, Turlough?!

DOCTOR:

We have to go after him.

TURLOUGH:

Why? We've got his gun.

FEM:

He was badly injured. What can he do?

NYSSA:

He took his bag with him. It's full of explosives.

DOCTOR:

Stay here, all of you. Guard the Decider, in case he doubles back.

TEGAN:

Stay here? Seriously?

DOCTOR:

Come on, Tegan.

(FX: DOCTOR AND TEGAN RUN INTO TUNNELS. CROSS TO:)

97. TUNNEL.

(FX: SAME LOCATION AND AMBIENCE AS SCENE 64. SOLUS ENTERS SLOWLY, HAMPERED BY HIS INJURIES.)

SOLUS:

(WEAK, IN PAIN) Which way?... Which way!

(FX: OFF, DOCTOR AND TEGAN RUN INTO THE TUNNEL AND STOP A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY.)

TEGAN:

(APPROACHING) There he is.

(FX: SOLUS TAKES EXPLOSIVE CHARGE FROM HIS BAG.)

SOLUS:

Come any closer and I'll activate this charge.

DOCTOR:

Don't be foolish.

(FX: SOLUS BACKS AWAY, STEP BY DELIBERATE STEP.)

SOLUS:

I'm going to carry on down this tunnel, and this time you will not follow me. If you do... boom.

DOCTOR:

That tunnel? But that leads to the cave-in you caused earlier!

SOLUS:

This one, then. Thank you, Doctor. And goodbye.

(FX: SOLUS BACKS AWAY INTO THE SIDE TUNNEL.)

SOLUS:

(CONTINUED) (DISAPPEARING INTO THE TUNNEL, A SMALLER ACOUSTIC.) Remember, I don't want to see you again. Or I'll do it, I'll activate the charge. Goodbye!

TEGAN:

Doctor? Are we just going to let him go?

DOCTOR:

Do you recognise where we are?

TEGAN:

Should I?

DOCTOR:

This is the junction we came to when we first entered the caves. Do you remember? A choice of two tunnels.

TEGAN:

(SUDDENLY RECALLING) Yes! And that tunnel..

DOCTOR:

... is the one full of spiders.

98. SPIDER TUNNEL

(FX: COMPACT TUNNEL AMBIENCE. SOLUS MOVING SLOWLY ALONG, WALKS INTO A CURTAIN OF SPIDER WEBS.)

SOLUS:

(WIPING WEB AWAY, DISGUSTED) Ach! Cobwebs!

(FX: CLICK-CLACK AND SCUTTling OF A HORDE OF SPIDERS, DISTURBED BY HIS PRESENCE.)

SOLUS:

(AFRAID) What's that? Who's there?

(FX: SPIDERS SCUTTLE FORWARD EN MASSE.)

SOLUS:

Spiders!! I know how to deal with you...

(FX: HE ACTIVATES EXPLOSIVE CHARGE. ITS POWER BUILDS RAPIDLY, ON A SHORT FUSE SETTING.)

SOLUS:

(EFFORT AS HE THROWS CHARGE AT THE SPIDERS...)

(FX: ... AND RUNS. CROSS TO:)

99. TUNNEL JUNCTION. [CONTINUOUS]

(FX: WE HEAR THE ESCALATING EXPLOSIVE CHARGE.)

DOCTOR:

He's going to use the explosive to clear his path. – Tegan, run!

TEGAN:

You don't need to tell me!

(FX: THEY RUN AS CHARGE BUILDS TO A PEAK, THEN BOOM!!! THE EXPLOSIVE DETONATES IN THE ADJACENT TUNNEL, WHERE THERE IS THEN A MASSIVE ROOF COLLAPSE.)

SOLUS:

(FROM ADJACENT TUNNEL – CRIES OUT AS HE'S HIT BY THE ROOF FALL)

(FX: RESONANCE OF EXPLOSION FADES, LAST OF DISTURBED ROCKS SETTLE. THEN SILENCE.)

100. BY WATERFALL.

(FX: FADE UP. MISTFALL AMBIENCE. DOCTOR AND COMPANIONS PLUS MERRION AND FEM WALKING UP TO TARDIS.)

DOCTOR:

(WALKING UP) Here she is. My TARDIS!

NYSSA:

(REALISATION) Oh no...!

TEGAN:

Nyssa? What is it?

MERRION:

(WALKING UP) So this is it. The blue box, in the legend..

DOCTOR:

She's rather more than a legend, Lana.

NYSSA:

Doctor, I need to talk to you.

DOCTOR:

One moment, please, Nyssa. I was about to offer the Decider a lift back to New Alzarius.

NYSSA:

A lift?!

TEGAN:

Take my advice, don't.

TURLOUGH:

Not if you ever want to see home again.

DOCTOR:

(PUT OUT) Yes, thank you, Tegan, Turlough.

MERRION:

A relief ship will arrive, in time. But this is an opportunity to open a dialogue with the people of the marshes, with Fem as go-between.

DOCTOR:

Well, that sounds like a very positive arrangement.

FEM:

I would be proud to be the voice for both of my peoples.

TURLOUGH:

Good luck with that.

DOCTOR:

(AWKWARD) Yes, well. Goodbye. Give my regards to the people of the [marsh.]

NYSSA:

Doctor, we're not going anywhere! We have to go back to the cave!

DOCTOR:

The cave? Why?

NYSSA:

We need Solus's body!

TEGAN:

You what?

NYSSA:

The interface stabiliser! Doctor, Solus took the interface stabiliser!

TURLOUGH:

Now I remember!

DOCTOR:

How?

NYSSA:

Drell stole it, from the TARDIS. He gave it to Solus. Solus put it in his backpack, and...

TEGAN:

Oh, great. Back up the mountain [we go.]

(FX: IN THE DISTANCE, A SPACECRAFT ENGINE STARTS UP. IT LAUNCHES FROM THE FOREST AND TEARS AWAY UPWARDS INTO THE HEAVENS.)

FEM:

What's that noise?

MERRION:

To the east. A spacecraft!

TURLOUGH:

I see it. That's Fara's spacecraft. You don't suppose...?

DOCTOR:

(GRIM) I don't see who else it could have been, do you?

TEGAN:

What do you mean?

NYSSA:

That's how Solus was planning to make his escape. In Fara's ship.

TEGAN:

Are you telling me Solus survived?

TURLOUGH:

It rather looks that way.

TEGAN:

What, and now he's skedaddled? With this interface stabiliser?

(FX: DOCTOR UNLOCKING TARDIS DOOR.)

DOCTOR:

Into the TARDIS, all of you. – All of you, quickly! (FX: AS COMPANIONS ENTER) In, in! – Goodbye again, Lana, Fem.

MERRION:

Goodbye, [Doctor]

DOCTOR:

So sorry, no time.

(FX: SLAMS TARDIS DOOR. CROSS TO:)

101. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.

(FX: DOORS CLOSE BEHIND DOCTOR, WHO RUSHES UP TO CONSOLE.)

DOCTOR:

Now, let's see if I can get a fix on Solus..

(FX: OPERATING CONTROLS.)

NYSSA:

Doctor, Fara's ship used ion-based engine technology, I believe.

DOCTOR:

So he'll be leaving an ion trail. We can track that.

TEGAN:

Yeah, but can the TARDIS actually fly without this stabiliser doo-dah?

DOCTOR:

Theoretically.

TURLOUGH:

Is it dangerous?

DOCTOR:

All I know is, we couldn't possibly survive a trip back through a CVE without it. So if we don't get it back, we're trapped in E-Space. Forever.

NYSSA:

Doctor, if we don't get out of E-Space, I'll never see Neeka or Adric again.

DOCTOR:

I'm aware of that, Nyssa. – Brace yourselves, everyone.

TURLOUGH:

Why? What's going to happen if you try to take off without this stabiliser?

DOCTOR:

I'm not entirely sure.

TURLOUGH:

Marvellous.

TEGAN:

Just do it if you're doing it, Doc!

(FX: DOCTOR OPERATES CONTROLS. DEMATERIALISATION NOISE BEGINS...)

DOCTOR:

There. That doesn't sound too t-[errible]

(FX: TARDIS LURCHES, ENGINES STRAINING. SYSTEM ALARMS SOUND, ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS SPARK ON THE CONSOLE.)

TEGAN/TURLOUGH/NYSSA:

(CRY OUT AS THEY ARE THROWN AROUND)

TURLOUGH:

What's happening?

TEGAN:

Doctor, do something!!

(FX: DOCTOR FRANTICALLY OPERATES CONTROLS.)

DOCTOR:

We're out of control!! Nothing's responding!! I don't know what to do!

END TITLES